DOUBLE ISSUE

OCT. 5 / OCT. 12, 2020

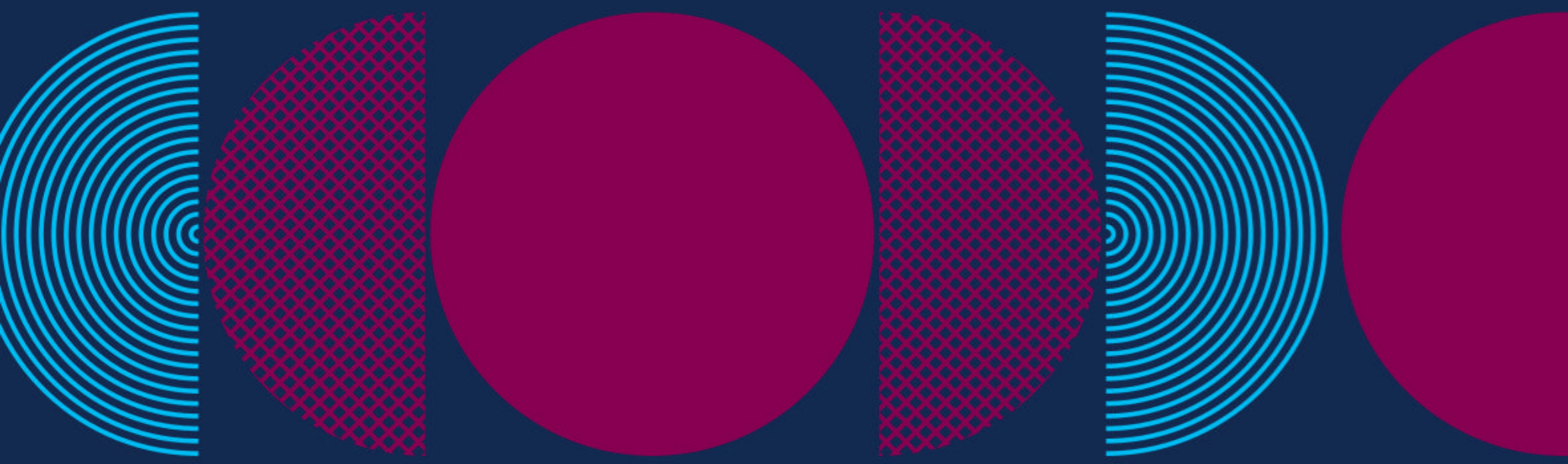
TIME

INSIDE

THE 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE

RUTH BADER GINSBURG

1933 – 2020



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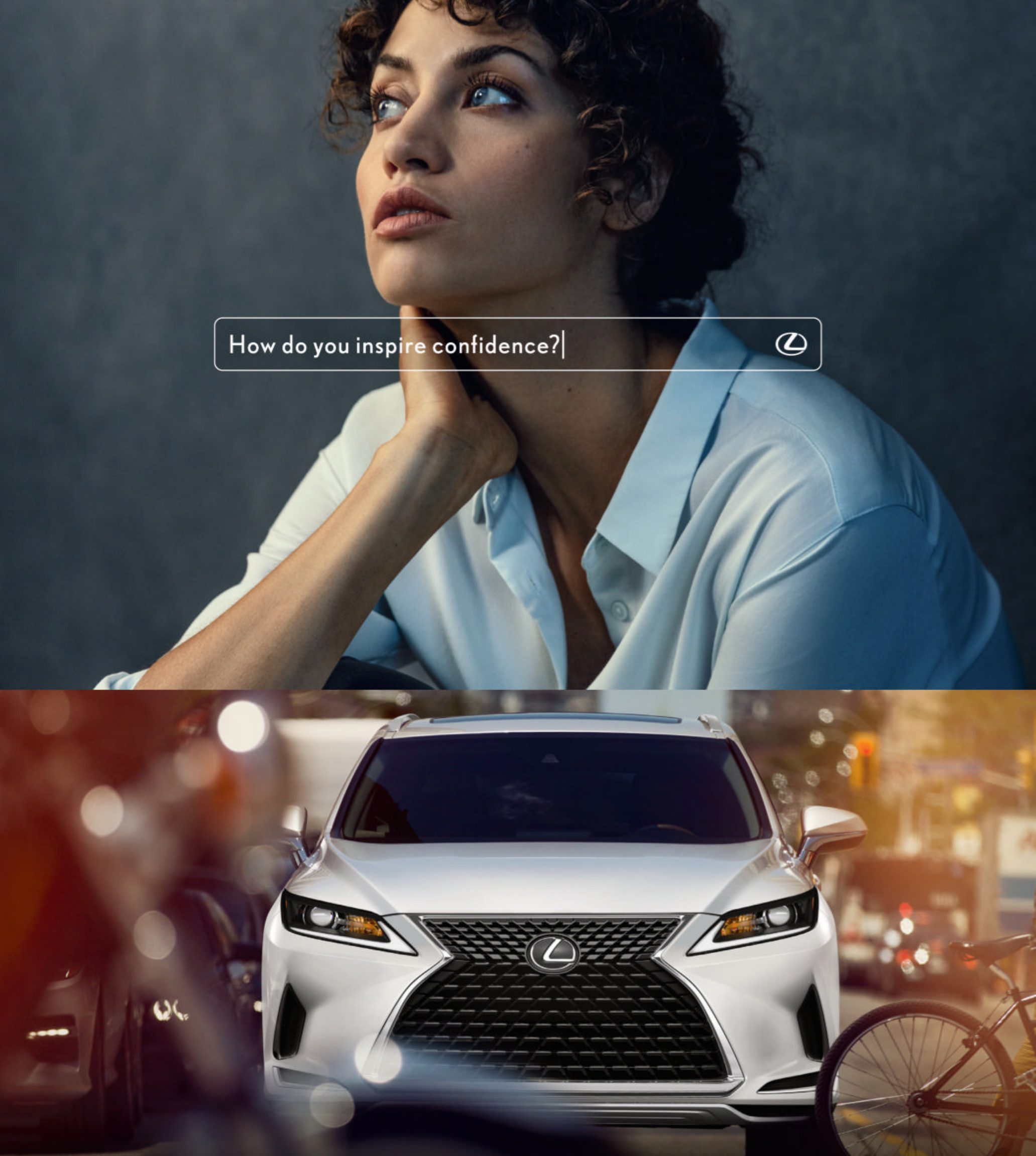

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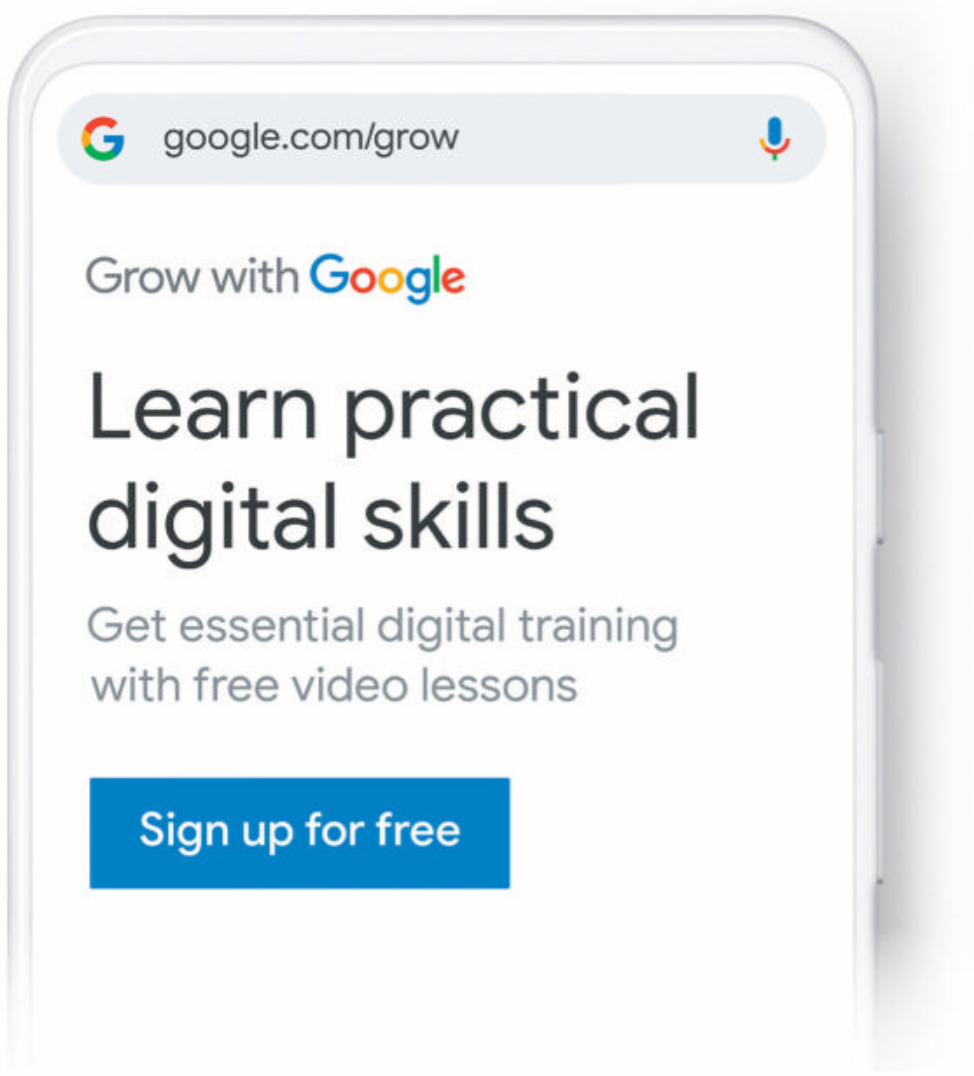

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By taking the Applied Digital Skills lessons, Danette learned essential digital skills ranging from data analysis to research and communication.

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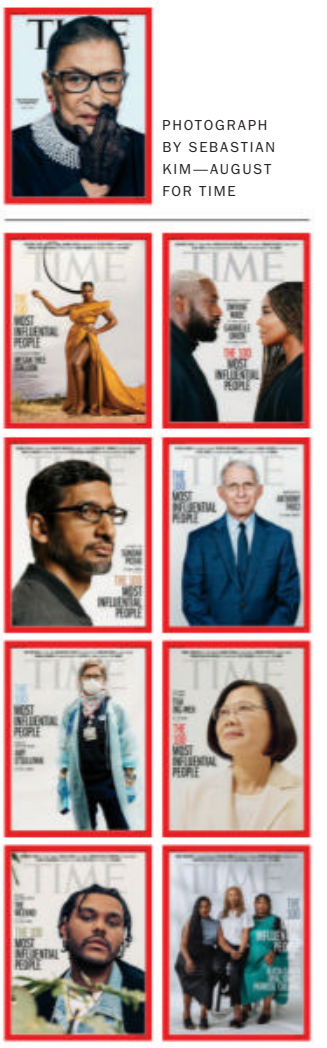

PHOTOGRAPH BY SEBASTIAN KIM—AUGUST FOR TIME

MEGAN THEE STALLION: PHOTOGRAPH BY DANA SCRUGGS FOR TIME; WADE AND UNION: PHOTOGRAPH BY TEXAS ISAIAH FOR TIME; PICHAI: PHOTOGRAPH BY PAOLA KUDACKI FOR TIME; FAUCI: PHOTOGRAPH BY STEFAN RUIZ FOR TIME; O'SULLIVAN: PHOTOGRAPH BY PAOLA KUDACKI FOR TIME; TSAI: PHOTOGRAPH BY NHU XUAN HUA FOR TIME; THE WEEKND: PHOTOGRAPH BY NABIL ELDERKIN FOR TIME; GARZA, TOMETI AND CULLORS: PHOTOGRAPH BY KAYLA REEFER FOR TIME

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This year's list looks far different than any of us could have predicted just six months ago

A new influence

WE'VE BEEN DOING THE *TIME* 100 LIST OF the world's most influential people for nearly 20 years. But there has never been a year like this. A year of multiple crises, all over the world, all at once.

And so this year's list looks far different than any of us could have predicted just six months ago. The TIME 100 has always been a mirror of the world and those who shape it. While you will certainly find people who wield traditional power on this year's list—heads of state, CEOs, major entertainers—it also includes many extraordinary, lesser-known individuals who seized the moment to save lives, build a movement, lift the spirit, repair the world.

There are, for example, a record number of doctors, nurses and scientists. Among them: German infectious-disease specialist Camilla Rothe, who helped document that this coronavirus could be transmitted by people without symptoms; Chinese researcher Zhang Yongzhen, who mapped in less than 40 hours the genomic sequence of SARS-CoV-2 and was the first to share it publicly; New York nurse Amy O'Sullivan, who treated the first patient to die from COVID-19 in the state, contracted the virus herself and was back at work within a few weeks; and of course Anthony Fauci, who became in many ways America's doctor.

The list also includes many activists fighting for equality, including Black Lives Matter founders Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi, who helped build an international movement for racial justice; and Arussi Unda, a feminist leader who helped spearhead a national strike in Mexico to protest gender violence.

Fifty-four of the people on the list are women, more than ever before. Not only were many of the biggest grassroots movements of the year led by women, so were many of the world's most effective responses to COVID-19. As Texas Senator Ted Cruz writes of Tsai Ing-wen, the President of Taiwan, where fewer than a dozen people (out of 23 million residents) have died of the virus, "the virus can be controlled—without emulating China's drastic policies."

AS A RULE, the TIME 100 focuses on the living, but looming large over this year's list is the impact of individuals such as Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Tony McDade, whose killings galvanized a reckoning around police brutality and systemic racism;

A snapshot of one of our many remote TIME 100 staff meetings

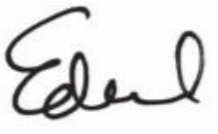
Aimee Stephens, whose case led to a historic Supreme Court decision protecting the rights of LGBTQ Americans; and Li Wenliang, the Wuhan physician who tried in vain to warn Chinese officials about the coronavirus and later died of it. The issue also includes a memorial to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, including the tribute that fellow Justice Antonin Scalia wrote when she was on the TIME 100 in 2015.

With our staff still working remotely, the process of putting together this year's TIME 100 was also unlike anything we've ever experienced. Led by TIME 100 editorial director Dan Macsai, it is the result of many hundreds of Zooms and Google Meets among many dozens of our global staff, as well as recommendations by TIME 100 alumni.

"We see the TIME 100 as more than a list," says Dan. "It's a community of hundreds of leaders from across the years and around the world whose visions can guide us and whose achievements can bring us hope."

We invite you to be part of the TIME 100 community as well, through our regular TIME 100 Talks series and other special events. You can sign up for regular updates at **time.com/talks-email**

This is a year of unimaginable challenges, but it is also an opportunity to re-evaluate and rebuild. I hope you're as inspired as I am by the extraordinary TIME 100 community. Their work challenges each of us to wield our own influence toward a world that is healthier, more resilient, more sustainable and just.



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TIME 100 televised

THE FIRST *TIME* 100 BROADCAST special aired on Sept. 22 on ABC, featuring appearances by TIME 100 alumni—including Sandra Oh, Trevor Noah and Kumail Nanjiani—as well as 2020 honorees. Among them: Gabrielle Union, Dwyane Wade, Michael B. Jordan, Billy Porter, Indigenous activist Nemonte Nenquimo and Syrian filmmaker Waad al-Kateab.

Even amid crises that seem impossible to solve, the TIME 100 community shared messages of hope for a better future, a sentiment reinforced by musical performances by Halsey, Jennifer Hudson and the Weeknd. As TIME editor-in-chief Edward Felsenthal put it, "That's what the TIME 100 is—a group of people who do the impossible."
Watch highlights at **time.com/tv-100**

1

'When we vote, our values are put into action.'

THE DUCHESS OF SUSSEX, encouraging viewers to register to vote

2

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4

1. TIME 100 alums Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex; 2. 2020 list members Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, 3. Black Lives Matter founders, from left, Alicia Garza, Opal Tometi and Patrisse Cullors, and 4. Grammy winner the Weeknd, in performance

TIME 100 poll results

The winner of this year's TIME 100 reader poll was **Nathan Law,** a leading pro-democracy activist and the youngest lawmaker in Hong Kong's history, who received 3.8% of the 4.7 million votes cast. Read more about Law on page 117.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT
In "The American Nightmare" (Sept. 21/Sept. 28), we misstated the date on which a photo was taken at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center in Brooklyn. It was April 27. In "When Will We Get a Vaccine?" in the same issue, we misstated which diseases Edward Jenner used to test his theories about inoculation. He found cowpox protected against smallpox.

PROGRAMMING NOTE The TIME 100 is a special double issue that will be on sale for two weeks. The next issue of TIME will be published Oct. 8 and available on newsstands Oct. 9.

IN MEMORIAM
Prints of TIME's commemorative cover of Ruth Bader Ginsburg can be purchased at the TIME cover store (timecoverstore.com). If you are a U.S. subscriber who received a TIME 100 cover and would like the issue with a Ruth Bader Ginsburg cover instead, please call 800-843-8463 to have it sent with our compliments.

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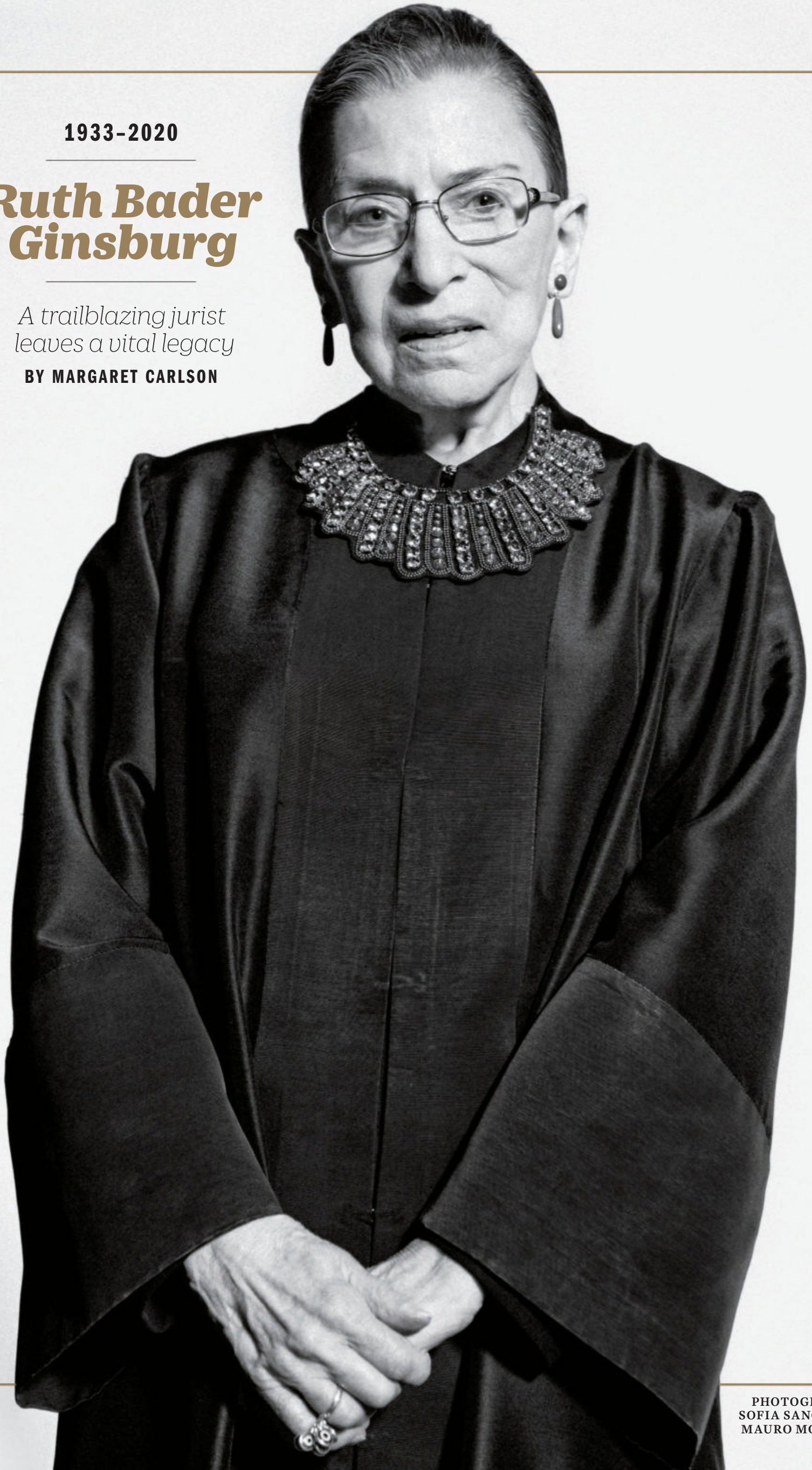
1933–2020

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

A trailblazing jurist leaves a vital legacy

BY MARGARET CARLSON



PHOTOGRAPH BY SOFIA SANCHEZ AND MAURO MONGIELLO

ON MARCH 15, 2019, LEGIONS OF RUTH BADER GINSburg's admirers celebrated her 86th birthday by testing their core strength, doing plank poses on the steps of courthouses around the country. The gritty determination that had shaped Ginsburg's legal career had also made her workout regimen famous, but neither could go on forever. Ginsburg died on Sept. 18 at the age of 87 of complications from metastatic pancreatic cancer.

The workout tribute to a Supreme Court Justice was one of the many ways members of a new generation demonstrated their love for the 5-ft.-tall legal giant who had made the lives they live possible. In the early '70s—after Gloria Steinem went underground as a Playboy Bunny to expose sexism and Betty Friedan wrote a feminist manifesto about "the problem with no name"—Ginsburg named the problem, briefed it and argued it before the Supreme Court of the United States.

She was 39 when, after years of being on the receiving end of outright discrimination, she began her campaign to end it, in her first job as a litigator. As co-director of the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), in her "very precise" way, as Justice Harry Blackmun put it, she studied title, chapter, clause and footnote of the legal canon that kept women down and, in five landmark cases that extended the 14th Amendment's equal-rights clause to women, overturned laws that discriminated on the basis of sex. In that long, hard slog, she employed some novel devices, using *gender* (so as not to distract male jurists with the word *sex*) and representing harmed male plaintiffs when she could find them (to show that discrimination hurts everyone). And she never raised her voice.

When she was done, a widower could get the same Social Security benefits as a woman, and a woman could claim the same military housing allowance as a man. A woman could cut a man's hair, buy a drink at the same age, administer an estate and serve on a jury.

Before she donned her first black robe, Ginsburg had brought about a small revolution in how women were treated, having argued more than 300 gender-discrimination cases. Over the next decades, starting in 1980 as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia and then as the second woman on the Supreme Court, having been appointed by President Bill Clinton in 1993, she would become to women what Thurgood Marshall was to African Americans.

Before she donned her first black robe, Ginsburg had brought about a small revolution

But her fans' courthouse celebration was also a plea for the bionic Ginsburg to carry on, at least until the 2020 election. There was high anxiety when she fell asleep at the State of the Union address in 2015 (a case of enjoying a fine California wine at the Justices' prespeech dinner) and even more when she missed the court's 2019 opening session in January, her first such absence in 25 years. She hadn't fully recovered from surgery to remove two cancerous nodules from her lungs. But she took her seat as the senior Justice next to Chief Justice John Roberts in mid-February, picking up her full caseload. That summer, she went through radiation to treat a cancerous tumor on her pancreas, her fourth brush with cancer.

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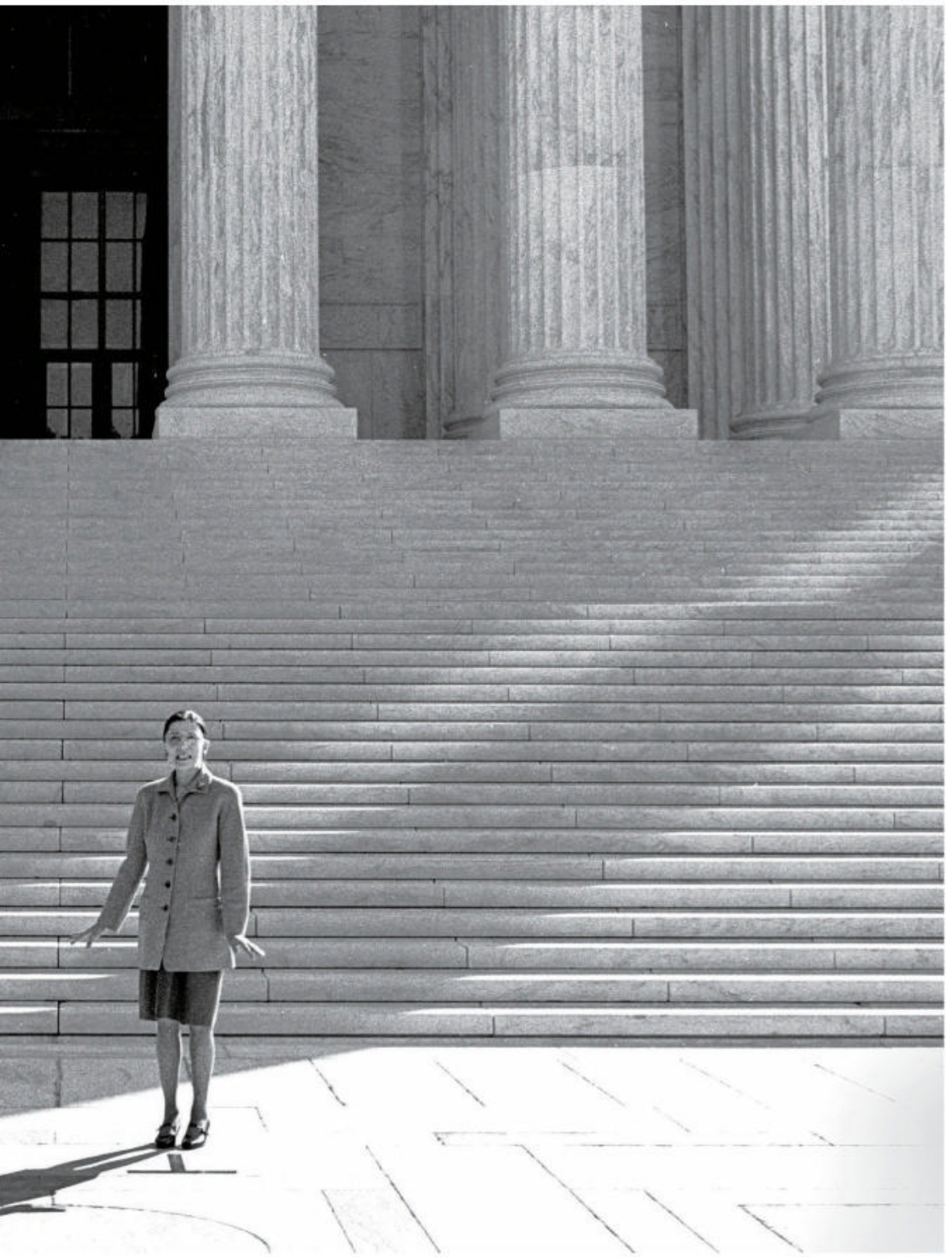

In July, she announced that cancer had returned yet again. Despite receiving chemotherapy for lesions on her liver, the 87-year-old reasserted that she was still "fully able" to continue serving.

Ginsburg outside the Supreme Court in 1993, on her first day as a Justice, after being confirmed 96-3

JOAN RUTH BADER was born in 1933 in Brooklyn and came of age during the Holocaust, "a first-generation American on my father's side, barely second generation on my mother's . . . What has become of me could happen only in America," she said at her confirmation hearing.

True enough, but what would become of her was a long time coming. In an enthralling biography, *Ruth Bader Ginsburg: A Life*, Jane Sherron De Hart describes schoolgirl Ruth, who twirled a baton but was such a bookworm she tripped and broke her nose reading while walking. Her mother, who convinced her she could do anything, died just before Ruth, a top student, graduated and headed off to Cornell. There she met the tall, handsome Martin Ginsburg—the first man, she said, who "cared that I had a brain." They married after she graduated Phi Beta Kappa. She'd been accepted to Harvard Law, where Marty was already enrolled. She called meeting Marty "by far the most fortunate thing that ever happened to me."

What happened next is proof of her maxim that a woman can "have it all," just not all at once. Marty was called up to active duty, so instead of studying torts in Cambridge, Ginsburg found herself working as a claims examiner at the Social Security Administration in Fort Sill, Okla.—that is, until she was demoted with a pay cut for working while pregnant.

Life threw another wrench into the works when both were back at Harvard with a baby girl and Marty was stricken with a rare testicular cancer. Ruth gathered notes from his classes and typed up his papers as well as her own, getting by on even less sleep than your usual new mother, all the while being scolded by Dean Erwin Griswold for taking up a man's seat. When her husband graduated and was offered a prestigious job at a white-shoe law firm in New York City, she gave up her last year at Harvard to finish at Columbia.

Once again, she felt the sting of discrimination. Despite being one of the first students ever to serve on both the Harvard and Columbia *Law Review*s and graduating at the top of her class, she couldn't get a job at a premier law firm or a Supreme Court clerkship. According to De Hart, Justice Felix Frankfurter fretted that a female clerk might wear pants to chambers. Without bitterness, Ginsburg noted that in the '50s, "to be a woman, a Jew and a mother to boot—that combination was a bit too much."

SHE DIDN'T GET outwardly angry and only, after many years, got even. She took a lower-court clerkship, researched civil procedure (and equality of the sexes in practice) in Sweden and wrote a book on the subject. She returned home to teach at the Newark, N.J., campus of Rutgers Law, becoming the first adviser for the *Women's Rights Law Reporter.* Despite Rutgers' being a progressive school, discrimination struck again. She didn't earn the same as a male colleague because, the dean explained, "he has a wife and two children to support. You have a husband with a good paying job in New York."

No wonder then, when she found herself surprisingly (given her husband's medical history) but happily pregnant again, she hid it. After the birth of her son, James, she became a tenured professor at Columbia and co-authored the first casebook on discrimination law—a work in progress as she changed so much of it.

But when President Clinton needed to fill a Supreme Court vacancy in 1993, though Ginsburg made the short list, she was not at the top of it.

As the Supreme Court tilted conservative, Ginsburg, in 1972 at left and 2015 at right, gained fame for her dissents

Not even Clinton's deliberations were without a peculiar form of discrimination, as he worried that "the women are against her." He was right. Ginsburg had once speculated that abortion rights might be less vulnerable to challenge had legalization progressed through the states, not the courts, leading to fears she might not protect *Roe v. Wade*. And besides, to some feminists of the '90s, she was yesterday. The judge methodically chipping away at bias, without burning a bra or tossing a high heel, looked plodding and uninspiring; her friendship with Justice Antonin Scalia, her colleague on the district court, looked suspect.

Enter Marty. "I wasn't very good at promotion, but Marty was," she told the late Gwen Ifill of PBS. "He was tireless"—and beloved among lawyers, professors and politicians. Women came around, reminded that she was a pioneer in their fight to overcome the patriarchy and a steadfast supporter of abortion rights. Ginsburg was confirmed 96 to 3.

She didn't disappoint. In one case after another, she asked the right questions (and often the first one), cobbled together majorities and joined in elegantly reasoned opinions: striking down stricter requirements for abortion clinics *(Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt),* and legalizing same-sex marriage *(Obergefell v. Hodges),* suggesting during oral argument that if an inability to procreate doesn't keep 70-year-olds from marrying, that excuse could hardly be used to deprive gay couples.

But it was her minority—not her majority—opinions that endeared her to so many. After Sandra Day O'Connor retired in 2006 and the court tilted right, Ginsburg made a point of reading her dissents aloud, to explain to the majority why they were wrong in hopes that "if the court has a blind spot today, its eyes will be open tomorrow."

Here was a shy, understated incrementalist suddenly becoming the Great Dissenter. In *Shelby County v. Holder,* she said that relieving errant states of the close scrutiny of the Voting Rights Act was to forget Shakespeare's warning that "what's past is prologue." In *Hobby Lobby,* she was aghast that the court would deny contraception coverage to working women because of someone else's religious beliefs. And, given that salaries were kept secret, how could they penalize the plaintiff in the *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.* equal-pay case for missing a deadline to file a complaint about a wage disparity she wasn't yet sure existed? One person whose eyes were opened was Barack Obama. The first piece of legislation he signed as President, in 2009, was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

GINSBURG'S WOMANSPLAINING also caught the attention of New York University law student Shana Knizhnik, who in

1972: LIBRADO ROMERO—THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX; 2015: BILL CLARK—CQ ROLL CALL/GETTY IMAGES

2013 began sharing Ginsburg's words on a Tumblr blog she called Notorious RBG. A younger generation of women, and their mothers and grandmothers, were reminded of what Ginsburg had done for them.

Knizhnik joined with reporter Irin Carmon to write *Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg.* The Justice was soon a recurring character on *Saturday Night Live,* with a hyperkinetic Kate McKinnon issuing blistering "Ginsburns." The Justice's 2016 collection, *My Own Words,* was a New York *Times* best seller. There were other books about her life too—adult, children's and coloring. In 2018, Hollywood released a major motion picture, *On the Basis of Sex,* as well as the Emmy-winning documentary *RBG.* Store shelves groan with merch: mugs (YOU BADER BELIEVE IT), onesies (THE RUTH WILL SET YOU FREE), tote bags, bobblehead dolls and action figures, including a minifigure from *The Lego Movie 2.*

All this late-arriving fame rested uneasily on the shoulders of Ginsburg, though she accepted it with dignity and kept a large supply of novelty T-shirts as party favors for visitors. She took some pleasure at her grandchildren's shock that

VIEWPOINT

She warned us

Ginsburg's dissent on voting rights foretold the future

BY JOYCE WHITE VANCE

Justice Ginsburg described her dissents as "appealing to the intelligence of a future day," and this was never truer than when she found herself in the minority in the 2013 voting-rights case *Shelby County v. Holder.* The majority opinion rolled back the protections of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and let states change their voting procedures without any outside oversight. But Ginsburg knew what that meant and refused to pretend it wouldn't erode the advances made under the act.

Passed to ensure no citizen would be denied the right to vote because of race or color, the Voting Rights Act prohibited discriminatory tests and devices and required jurisdictions with a history of significant discrimination against Black voters to get approval from the Justice Department or the district court in D.C. before changing their practices. In finding the act unconstitutional and ending this "preclearance" requirement, Chief Justice John Roberts held that the "blight of racial discrimination in voting" that had "infected the electoral process in parts of our country for nearly a century" had been ameliorated.

On the same day that lawyers for Shelby County, Alabama, argued before the court that discrimination in voting was a thing of the past, a friend of mine had business in the Shelby County courthouse. He had forgotten he had an old coin in his pocket that he'd shown to a friend, and he took it out as he went through security. The guard, a white man, told him, "That's a Dixon. That's where the name Dixie comes from.

"But," the guard said dismissively, "Black people will tell you it's just about cotton." He went on to tell my friend that because it was Black History Month, if he wanted to see Black history, he'd take him over to the county jail, where he could see it, all lined up. His opinion was shocking. Even worse was that a county employee charged with protecting the public felt comfortable sharing it with a stranger, as though every white person at the courthouse would share his views.

Ginsburg understood that the Voting Rights Act was a levee keeping a whole press of problems at bay. "Throwing out preclearance when it has worked and is continuing to work to stop discriminatory changes is like throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not getting wet," she wrote.

There was no gainsaying her prescience. Alabama, Texas, North Carolina and Missouri quickly rolled out voter-identification acts as well as other laws restricting access to the polls. The court gave permission to purge voter rolls and gerrymander districts. The future that Ginsburg hoped to evoke in her dissents looked even more distant as the Senate refused to hold a floor vote on HR 4, a voting-rights bill that passed the House in 2019.

Roberts' assessment in 2013 has been disproved, but his words are still the law of the land. We face serious challenges in voting ranging from foreign interference to suppression to delayed results because of mail-in voting during the pandemic. Those problems may seem overwhelming. But the woman who saw the future would not have given up, and neither should we.

We can vote early to take pressure off the polls on Election Day. Low-risk people can volunteer as poll workers or watchers. And a new voting-rights act would honor her legacy. She would want us to keep the umbrella open.

Vance is a law professor at the University of Alabama and a former U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama

"so many people want to take my picture."

That family was the product of a marriage of extraordinary compatibility and mutual support. After he recovered from cancer and became a sought-after lawyer, Marty eagerly took on his share of domestic duties. He was the fun parent; Ginsburg joked at her confirmation hearing that the children kept a log called "Mommy Laughed." Former Solicitor General Ted Olson was a frequent guest for dinner—the annual New Year's ones a legend, with Marty as the bighearted host happily roasting "Bambi," Ruth's name for whatever her opera buddy Scalia had bagged on his latest hunting trip. Neither Ginsburg, Olson observed, would be who they'd become without the other.

Marty lived to see his wife recognized beyond what the two imagined when they agreed to marry and be lawyers together, but died just before a slight she had suffered for following him to New York was righted. In 2011, she was awarded an honorary degree from Harvard Law—the degree Dean Griswold had denied her for taking her last credits at Columbia.

The longer she lived, the wider her reach and the deeper the appreciation for her years on the bench. At the opening concert of the National Symphony Orchestra in September 2019, Kennedy Center chair David Rubinstein introduced the dignitaries in the audience. When he got to the Justice, women rose to applaud her. Then, the men quickly joined in until everyone in the hall was standing, looking up at the balcony, cheering and whistling, as if they'd come not to hear Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 2 but to tell Ginsburg they knew what she had done for them.

This wasn't an audience of liberals, but a cross section of the capital touched by a once young lawyer who saw unfairness and methodically worked to end it.

Over the decades, Ginsburg quietly persisted—through discrimination, through Marty's 2010 death, through more illness and debilitating treatments than any one person should have to endure—without complaint, holding on and out, until sheer will was no longer enough.

Carlson is a journalist and was the first woman to write a column at TIME

VIEWPOINT

The GOP's choice

A compromise to preserve the court's legitimacy

BY DAVID FRENCH

The Republican argument for immediately nominating and confirming a replacement for Ruth Bader Ginsburg is now stripped of all pretext. It's about raw power. In fact, it can be boiled down to three words: *elections have consequences.* Even when Americans are voting in a presidential election that will end in less than seven weeks.

If you'd listened to Republicans before this moment, this raw power politics appears new. When they blocked Merrick Garland's nomination to the Supreme Court, they claimed a neutral principle was at stake. Their argument? When an election looms, let the people decide.

While much can happen between now and Nov. 3, the Democrats may well hold the House, narrowly take control of the Senate and win the White House. At that point, they'd have the legal and constitutional power to not just reverse conservative control of the court by amending the law to increase the number of Supreme Court seats; they could also permanently alter the balance of power in the Senate by admitting new states.

Republicans would object. Conservative Americans would protest. They'd appeal to "norms" and worry about a "tyranny of the majority." But if power is all that matters now, Democrats could simply respond, "Elections have consequences."

Yet there is a deep and profound danger to stripping politics of principle and instead appealing to power alone. When politicians' words mean nothing—when only partisan interests prevail—it damages our social and cultural fabric. It deepens public anger and mistrust, and unacceptably raises the stakes of each and every American election.

What can be done? An increasing number of center-right legal scholars are proposing a variant of an approach best summed up as "make them keep their word." It goes something like this:

First, Trump makes his pick.

Second, the Senate gives the nominee a hearing. This will have the benefit of giving the American people a more complete picture of the qualifications of the nominee and thus the stakes of the election.

Third, the Senate does not vote before the election. If Trump wins, it then votes on the nominee.

But what if Trump loses? Joe Biden's own words provide the guide.

In July 2019, Biden clearly expressed his opposition to court packing. "I'm not prepared to go on and try to pack the court," he said, "because we'll live to rue that day."

He's right. Court packing is dangerous. Yet if multiple GOP Senators violate their principles to jam through a nominee, the pressure from congressional Democrats to pack the court may be overwhelming. Biden should make a deal with the lame-duck Senate. Keep the seat open, and he'll pledge not to sign any legislation packing the Supreme Court.

This isn't the "unilateral disarmament" so despised by partisans. It's a compromise. Both sides would shed Machiavellianism (for a moment, at least) and do something concrete to actually de-escalate America's toxic political conflicts. America's polarization is growing dangerous. Political violence stalks our streets. Now is the time for true statesmen to step forward, to put prudence before power and reach a compromise that doesn't just preserve the legitimacy of the court but helps preserve the integrity of our republic.

French, a TIME columnist, is the author of Divided We Fall: America's Secession Threat and How to Restore Our Nation

NATION

The stakes for November—and beyond

How Trump's race to fill the seat heightens the election drama

BY MOLLY BALL

Supporters thronged the steps of the court Sept. 21 for an impromptu vigil honoring the late Justice

LENIN NOLLY—SOPA IMAGES/SHUTTERSTOCK

THERE ARE MANY THEORIES ABOUT why Donald Trump won the presidency, but Mitch McConnell gets some of the credit. In February 2016, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia died, paving the way for then President Obama to replace him with a jurist who would pull the court left. Trump had not yet wrapped up the GOP nomination, and many conservatives were skeptical of the former Democrat. McConnell, the Senate Republican leader, refused to hold hearings on Obama's court nominee, arguing the winner of the election should fill the seat.

Democrats deplored the obstruction and predicted voters wouldn't tolerate it. But the judicial opening was a profound motivator for conservatives—especially after Trump, in a novel move, issued a list of conservative jurists from which he said his nominees would be selected. In exit polls, 1 in 5 2016 voters said the Supreme Court was their top issue, and 56% of those supported Trump.

Four years later, the death of liberal icon Ruth Bader Ginsburg has given Trump and McConnell an opportunity to pad the court's conservative majority. But the political consequences are less obvious—and the procedural shoe is on the other foot. Though Ginsburg reportedly expressed a dying wish that she not be replaced until "a new President" takes office, McConnell waited just over an hour after her death became public to announce that the Senate would vote on Trump's nominee. All but two GOP Senators quickly fell into line, their past objections to election-year appointments suddenly forgotten. Trump plans to name his pick on Sept. 26, less than six weeks before Election Day, with voting already under way.

The last-minute court fight ratchets up the drama and stakes of this fractious election year. Democrats and Republicans alike believe the court could again be a decisive issue in the presidential race. But the implications go far beyond who wins in November. If Republicans succeed in confirming Trump's nominee, six of the court's nine votes will be in conservative hands. In the coming months alone, the new Justice could be a deciding vote on pending cases to strike down the Affordable Care Act and allow faith-based charities to deny services to same-sex couples, as well as a flurry of emergency election-related cases. In the coming years, cases on abortion, affirmative action, immigration, voting rights and other key issues are likely to reach the court's docket.

One legacy of the battle over Ginsburg's seat may be the blow it inflicts on the institution. "There's certainly enough blame to go around over the past two decades on this issue," as both Democrats and Republicans have sought to manipulate court appointments to their advantage, says former Republican Senator Jeff Flake, a Trump critic. But Republicans jamming a last-minute Supreme Court nomination through the Senate "would escalate it even further. And if we get to a point where there's court packing or anything else, then that is real, long-term damage."

A President elected with a minority of the vote, backed by Senators representing a minority of the public, using procedural hijinks to cement a judiciary that will shape American life: to many, the prospect amounts to a subversion of democracy and a clear sign that the structures of government are badly broken. Some Democrats, including prominent elected officials, say that if their party wins the White House and Congress, they should make big changes: eliminating the Senate filibuster; adding Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico as states; and expanding the size of the Supreme Court, adding two or more additional Justices to compensate for the ones "stolen" from their party—ignoring the squawks of the GOP just as Republicans ran roughshod over them. In the meantime, Democrats are girding for the nightmare scenario, in which the unelected court installed through minoritarian means is called upon to resolve

a disputed 2020 election—and hands a second term to a President who never once won the popular vote.

IN THE HOURS after Ginsburg's death, the steps of the Supreme Court became an impromptu memorial. Flowers and candles mingled with handmade signs as anguished liberals paid tribute to their heroine. Sadness mixed with a sense of panic. "It's like the emergency light, right?" says Lauren Acker, a 29-year-old D.C. resident. "Anybody who believes that what we're currently working with is not a functioning system of government, it is now, as it always has been, our responsibility to yell louder, fight harder and educate everyone we can."

Within days, the online Democratic donor platform ActBlue reported processing $200 million in donations, shattering records. Democratic strategists predicted the court fight would energize their voters, underscoring the stakes for partisans who are not as enthusiastic about Democratic nominee Joe Biden as hardcore Republicans are about Trump. "Our game plan remains the same. And our game plan is: we take nothing for granted," Tom Perez, chair of the Democratic National Committee, tells TIME.

Instead of signing on to divisive ideas like court packing, Biden cast the fight in terms of health care, which Democrats see as a winning issue. A week after Election Day, the Supreme Court is scheduled to hear a case brought by a group of Republican attorneys general, and backed by the Department of Justice, that could result in the elimination of the Affordable Care Act. "In the middle of the worst global health crisis in living memory, Donald Trump is at the Supreme Court trying to strip health coverage away from tens of millions of families and to strip away the peace of mind from more than 100 million people with pre-existing conditions," Biden said.

The political valence of the court has shifted since 2016, making it as much—or more—of a galvanizing force on the left as it has long been on the right. A recent CNN poll found 47% of Biden supporters considered the Supreme Court "extremely important," compared with 32% of Trump supporters. In 2018, the bitter fight over the nomination of Justice Brett Kavanaugh on the eve of the midterm elections may have helped power Democrats to the House majority.

This year, the court vacancy may shape the race for the Senate, where Republican control is at risk. Senator Susan Collins of Maine already faced her constituents' ire for her crucial vote to confirm Kavanaugh, which tarnished her brand as an independent-minded Republican. Within a day of Ginsburg's passing, Collins said she did not believe the Senate should vote on a replacement prior to the election. Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, a frequent Trump critic who is not up for re-election this year, joined Collins in opposing a pre-election confirmation vote.

But other GOP Senators calculated they had more to lose by disappointing their own partisans than they might gain by sticking to the precedent set in 2016. Senators Cory Gardner of Colorado, Martha McSally of Arizona, Joni Ernst of Iowa, Thom Tillis of North Carolina and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, each facing a tough reelection fight, all quickly supported McConnell's gambit, waving away charges of hypocrisy. ("I want you to use my words against me," Graham said in 2016. "If there's a Republican President … and a vacancy occurs in the last year of the first term, you can say Lindsey Graham said, 'Let's let the next President, whoever it might be, make that nomination.'" The clip is now airing in TV ads.) The Senators sought instead to use the nomination to rally Republican voters behind them.

One legacy of the battle over Ginsburg's seat may be the blow it inflicts on the court

At Trump's rallies, a new chant emerged: "Fill that seat!" Republicans predict the court battle will shift attention from Trump's mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic toll. "This helps Trump, and it helps Republican Senate candidates," GOP donor Dan Eberhart argues. "We are not running solely on the COVID response and the economy anymore—this resets the race." A White House official predicts the fight will heighten the volatile atmosphere in a country already contending with a pandemic, a recession, racial-justice protests and natural disasters. "You think what a full-on war Kavanaugh was," the official says. "It's going to be like that times 1,000."

Trump is trailing in the polls and has few legislative accomplishments to his name other than his 2017 tax cut. Key promises—a border wall, a health care plan, an infrastructure bill—remain unfulfilled. Seeing this, McConnell began telling confidants that he was in the "personnel business"; the massive number of judicial appointments he's pushed through the Senate have become the accomplishment he touts. Trump may lose the presidency, McConnell may lose the Senate—but the judiciary they shaped will outlast them both. That, in the end, may be the only electoral calculation that matters. —*With reporting by* ALEJANDRO DE LA GARZA *and* ANNA PURNA KAMBHAMPATY /NEW YORK; *and* ALANA ABRAMSON, BRIAN BENNETT, TESSA BERENSON, MARIAH ESPADA *and* LISSANDRA VILLA/WASHINGTON ◻

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TIME 100

THE 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN THE WORLD

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Abbott

AMY O'SULLIVAN

Photograph by Paola Kudacki for TIME

TIME 100

AMY O'SULLIVAN

Frontline hero

BY KATIE COURIC

The sound of sirens is not unusual in New York City. But this spring, the constant wailing was almost unbearable. Luckily, there was an army of health care workers on the other end. Like Amy O'Sullivan, an 18-year veteran ER nurse at Wyckoff hospital in Brooklyn. She treated the first COVID-19 patient at the hospital, who became the city's first death in early March, before the importance of PPE was truly understood. Amy began displaying symptoms a few days later. After she was intubated and spent four days on a ventilator, she went home to rest for less than two weeks before returning to work.

Amy is just one of the millions of health care workers worldwide who risked everything to service others. Many moved into hotels, spare bedrooms, even garages at the height of the pandemic to protect their families. From doctors to janitors, the entire ecosystem that keeps a hospital functioning became a new kind of ground zero, their exhausted eyes conveying competence and compassion. There are two simple words for their heroism: Thank you.

Couric is an Emmy Award–winning journalist and the founder of Katie Couric Media

Arussi Unda

Feminist bellwether

BY LYDIA CACHO

If we stop, the world stops. Those were the words Arussi Unda, a feminist from Veracruz, Mexico, used to call for a national women's strike on March 9, 2020. In response to her call, millions of women in Mexico stayed home from work and refused to care for others, reminding the world of the important role women of all ages, races and economic statuses play in making democracy work.

Arussi insists women are the gatekeepers of our crumbling country, yet we are the ones being assassinated, raped, disappeared, bought and sold by traffickers. We care for the children, for the sick, for the elderly, and yet our governments have systematically denied us our right to rebel against an unjust system. We will put an end to this brutality that affects us all.

Arussi's leadership as a spokesperson for feminist organization the Witches of the Sea (Las brujas del mar) and her clear-minded call for a united front of all feminist movements have rocked Mexico's young generations. Hers has now become part of a bigger movement across the country calling for an immediate stop to inequality and violence against women. Arussi is unstoppable with her pro-diversity-feminism call for peace: just what Mexico needs right now.

Cacho is an author and investigative journalist in Mexico

UNDA: ILLUSTRATION BY GLUEKIT FOR TIME, VICTOR YANEZ—REUTERS

PHOTOGRAPH BY PAOLA KUDACKI FOR TIME

Billy Porter

Theatrical phenom

BY CYNDI LAUPER

Growing up, I was an outcast. I didn't fit in. I was lonely. But what I had was imagination and creativity. When Billy Porter and I met, we were instantly kindred spirits. We both moved through the world as people who didn't fit in, and we made use of what made us different as an asset. When you can embrace those things about yourself that don't fit in, that is when the magic happens.

When I wrote the songs for Lola for *Kinky Boots* and then met Billy, I knew he was Lola. He brought her to life. His portrayal was one of the most important reasons for the show's success. Billy can sing anything. He brings electricity into a room. When you watch him on *Pose*, you experience that same magic.

Look at this guy. You want to see living proof of talent, perseverance, tenacity, resilience, dedication to craft? When he couldn't get in the front door, the side door or the window, he found a whole other route. And now—especially since his historic Emmy win for Lead Actor in a Drama Series last fall—the whole world has found him, and that makes me so happy.

Lauper is an Emmy-, Grammy- and Tony Award–winning singer-songwriter

TIME 100

SISTER NORMA PIMENTEL

Compassionate guardian

BY JULIÁN CASTRO

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." These words from Matthew form the foundation of both the Catholic principle of faith through works and the life's mission of Sister Norma Pimentel.

Sister Pimentel has been on the front lines of mercy for three decades, supporting migrants who are seeking refuge in the U.S. along Texas' border with Mexico. As executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, she directs efforts to provide shelter, food, sanctuary and comfort to people often treated as less than human. Her organization has housed and assisted well over 100,000 people at the border.

Her work has taken on greater importance in the era of Donald Trump, and for good reason. As he has acted with cruelty toward migrants, she has acted with compassion. As he has preyed on the vulnerable and sought rejection, she has preached community and acceptance. As he has promoted fear, she has taught love.

Her boundless hope and fearless compassion have earned her the moniker of "the Pope's favorite nun." Sister Pimentel will keep changing the world, one act of kindness at a time.

Castro is a former U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi

Founders of Black Lives Matter

BY SYBRINA FULTON

I first heard about the Black Lives Matter movement the year my son Trayvon was killed. It wasn't on a national level yet. It was just something that people were saying in our circles. To know that Patrisse Cullors and Alicia Garza and Opal Tometi were out there organizing this movement—I felt supported and encouraged.

There are only three of them, but they are everywhere. They are getting people to think: What if you had a 17-year-old son in a hoodie, and no weapon, just a candy and a drink, and now he's dead on the ground? What if your daughter was sleeping in her own bed and the police knocked down the door and killed her? How would you feel? That is what "Black Lives Matter" asks.

The moment that I was going through my own tragedy, the same things were happening with Eric Garner, Mike Brown, Tamir Rice, Jordan Davis, Dontre Hamilton and Oscar Grant. I'm in a circle with all of their families, and we continue to lift one another up. And it continues

PIMENTEL: VALERIE CHIANG; TURKEL: ILLUSTRATION BY GLUEKIT FOR TIME, AP

to happen—to George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and more.

But this year feels different. Since the video came out of the brutal killing of George Floyd, people are actually witnessing what African Americans have been going through most of our lives. Once you see it, you can't unsee it. Once you feel the pain in your chest, you can't unfeel that pain. I'm glad to see there are more young people getting involved, more nationalities, more races—the protests are now a rainbow of people from all walks of life, in different countries, joining and saying, "Black lives *do* matter."

The protests are now a rainbow of people from all walks of life, in different countries, joining and saying, 'Black lives *do* matter.'

This is about human lives. We want people to support us, stand with us, write a letter, speak to your local officials, join a rally. Do something. Make sure people are hearing your voice saying, "Black lives matter." We can't give up. Patrisse, Alicia and Opal won't.

Fulton is founder of the Trayvon Martin Foundation

PHOTOGRAPH BY KAYLA REEFER FOR TIME

Nury Turkel

Voice of a people

BY DOLKUN ISA

Nury Turkel and I are Uyghurs, part of the majority-Muslim ethnic group that is currently facing what many human-rights groups are starting to recognize as a full-scale genocide at the hands of China's communist leadership. With millions of our people being herded into concentration camps—where women are sterilized or raped, and others suffer torture and experimentation—or forced into industrial slavery in China's factories, we have lost everything dear to us.

As a U.S.-educated attorney, Nury has worked tirelessly to build the Uyghur human-rights movement, representing 150 Uyghur political refugees to win asylum in the U.S. and bringing the plight of our people to the world's attention. He is the first Uyghur American to serve on the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, appointed by Nancy Pelosi in May, helping shape U.S. and global policy responses to the crisis. Nury is a leader on the global stage, fighting for universal human dignity and helping keep hope alive for the Uyghur people.

Isa is president of the World Uyghur Congress

WHERE ARE WE TO GO?

HOW ARE WE
TO RESPOND
WHEN WE
ARE SHOWN

OVER AND OVER AND OVER

THAT OUR LIVES
DO NOT
MATTER?

OUR LIVES MATTER.

BEING WHITE IN AMERICA
IS NOT NEEDING TO STATE YOUR LIFE MATTERS.

AND WHEN YOUR LIFE MATTERS,
YOU HAVE POWER.

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ALLYSON FELIX

Leveling the field

BY CHRISTY TURLINGTON BURNS

Allyson Felix is one of the most decorated athletes in track and field. When athletes like her speak out about the injustices they face, they are taking a stand for us all. So after Allyson publicly called out her sponsor at the time, Nike, for threatening to pay her less after she gave birth to her daughter in 2018, she had my attention and my support.

Pregnancy discrimination puts women and their families at risk. Any brand profiting from the attributes and accolades of women should ramp up their support during this period—not cut it back. To do less is unjust. Women have proved time and again that they can be more resilient after childbirth, and female athletes are no exception. They come back, oftentimes faster and stronger—in fact, Allyson took home her 13th world championship gold in fall 2019 and had been training to compete at the Tokyo Olympics this summer.

After she came forward, Nike updated its maternity policies to safeguard athletes' pay for 18 months surrounding childbirth. But society needs to protect all of its mothers. We need to ensure they have equitable access to safe and respectful care throughout pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum to not only survive but thrive in motherhood. Thank you for using your voice to advance maternity rights, Allyson.

Turlington Burns is the founder of Every Mother Counts

TIME 100

NAOMI OSAKA

Role model

BY MAYA MOORE

Seven matches. Seven masks. Seven names.

Watching Naomi Osaka play the U.S. Open, I was inspired by how beautifully she wove her dominant athletic performance into another narrative.

Believe me: it wasn't easy. It took incredible focus, courage and intentionality to carry herself the way she did. To use her gifts and talents, her voice and her platform, to honor the preciousness of Black and brown lives.

It took humility and grace to point beyond what she was doing, winning on one of the biggest stages in her craft, at something more important.

She reminded us that we can all resist the excuses that guard us from giving love. Whatever power we have, the most lasting and life-giving way we can steward that power is by using it to lift others up. Especially those who aren't exactly like us.

Because we need each other. We need the fullness of humanity. Sports can uniquely beckon this truth.

If somebody like Naomi can have the courage to use what she has to call people higher, then we can too.

You can too.

Moore is an activist and WNBA and Olympic champion

Angela Davis

Revolutionary crusader

BY COMMON

Revolution is love.

Angela Davis said that at a UCLA panel we were on together, and her words stuck with me. Her love for Black people and humanity at large fuels her; you can see it reflected in her impact on our world.

Her legacy is timeless; rooted in her truth, it encourages future generations to be courageous. As a child, her family friends were among the young girls killed in the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church. As a political leader, she was attacked, hunted and imprisoned; she dared to stand against a racist system. She's seen and witnessed it all, and she continues to inspire, educate and resist oppression.

There are certain people whose names you hear a lot in hip-hop and rap songs. Angela Davis is one of them. Hip-hop artists are the leaders of culture, speaking to and for young Black kids around the world. Whom they see as legends and pay tribute to carry a lot of weight. Angela Davis stays on the pulse of what's important. Last year, I freestyled for her during a birthday party at her home. She spent the night enjoying jazz music on her balcony, dressed in a Colin Kaepernick jersey.

Revolution is love.

Common is an Emmy-, Grammy- and Academy Award–winning songwriter and recording artist

OSAKA: DANIELLE PARHIZKARAN—REUTERS

PHOTOGRAPH BY DJENEBA ADUAYOM FOR TIME

Lina Attalah

Courageous journalist

BY MARIA RESSA

Shine the light.

That's the mission of journalism, but it has a personal cost in countries around the world that want to keep the darkness, confusion and fear so power can consolidate power.

As other news groups in Egypt self-censor, Mada Masr, under chief editor Lina Attalah, constantly makes the choice to do stories they know will bring "good trouble"—and they have. After it reported embarrassing news about the son of President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi, its office was raided; its journalists intimidated, arrested, detained—Lina, most recently, outside the prison where another journalist was confined. Authorities blocked Mada Masr's site, but it continues publishing.

Lina is almost stoic when asked about the courage that takes, often steering the conversation away from her to the commitment of her team. When you live like this, each day requires a temperature check and a mental calculation. Which story do you tackle? How far can you go?

You won't know you've gone too far until you do, like when Lina and her team were arrested, handcuffed together in the police truck. They held each other's hands as they mentally grappled with the impact on their lives. They reminded each other, "We are here by choice."

Ressa is an investigative journalist and co-founder of Rappler

DAVID HILL

Protecting Indigenous sovereignty

BY SHARICE DAVIDS

The U.S. federal government has long neglected and undermined the treaty obligations it owes to the 574 tribes. Native people have continued the fight that our ancestors started in upholding our sovereignty as tribal nations in many ways, and in 2019, Principal Chief David Hill and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation took that fight to the Supreme Court and won.

The *McGirt v. Oklahoma* decision this summer was a groundbreaking triumph for all of Indian Country. The court held that the land the Muscogee (Creek) Nation was guaranteed in exchange for leaving their ancestral home remains a reservation today, despite over a century of attempts to dissolve and dilute it. In short: the federal government must live up to its promises to Native peoples.

How the federal government treats one tribe, it treats all tribes, which is why this decision has such broad implications for all of Indian Country. Principal Chief Hill has led his people through a truly landmark victory and has continued to protect his nation's sovereignty from state encroachment after the decision. When you know you have to do what is right for your people, you just keep pushing forward.

Davids is a Democratic Congresswoman from Kansas and a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation

ATTALAH: DAVID DEGNER FOR TIME; HILL: ILLUSTRATION BY GLUEKIT FOR TIME; TULSA WORLD

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Ady Barkan

Health care warrior

BY ELIZABETH WARREN

In 2018, a typical household in America with health insurance spent more than $12,000 on health care premiums, co-pays, uncovered expenses and deductibles. The squeeze is real: an estimated 40 million people didn't see a doctor because of the costs in 2018, and, even among those who went, 37 million people couldn't afford to have their prescriptions filled. For people with serious medical problems, online fundraising and bankruptcy lurk just around the corner. In one of the richest countries in the history of the world, that is wrong. Ady Barkan knows that, and he gets up every morning leading the fight for Medicare for All.

For Ady, just getting up has become a chore harder than most of us could imagine. In 2016, Ady was diagnosed with ALS. Even as the disease has robbed him of movement and even the capacity to speak, Ady uses every last breath to stop drug and insurance companies from standing between Americans and the basic health care they need. He fights from the heart, both for his own family—his wife Rachael and his babies Carl and Willow—and for millions of families across America.

And right now, during the COVID-19 crisis and the following economic collapse, Ady has been a powerful force for good: drawing attention to our broken health care system, supporting frontline health care workers, and pushing for relief for working people as they get sick and lose their jobs.

I keep a picture of Carl, Ady and me on my bookshelf. Their smiles are a constant reminder that none of us knows what could happen tomorrow, so we embrace life fully as it comes, and we make purpose where we can.

In the fight for social justice, change never comes easy. But Ady and the movement he has behind him bring us closer than we have ever been to making health care in America a basic human right.

Warren is a Democratic Senator from Massachusetts

PHOTOGRAPH BY PAOLA KUDACKI FOR TIME

BILKIS

Symbol of resistance

BY RANA AYYUB

When I first met Bilkis, she sat in the midst of a crowd, surrounded by young women who were protesting with placards displaying verses of revolution. With prayer beads in one hand and the national flag in the other, Bilkis became the voice of the marginalized in India, an 82-year-old who would sit at a protest site from 8 a.m. to midnight.

She had been sitting there ever since Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government passed the Citizenship Amendment Act, which could block Muslims from citizenship in the country, in December, and she continued through the cold winter. Bilkis, along with thousands of women who joined her in Shaheen Bagh, a neighborhood in New Delhi, became the symbol of resistance in a nation where the voices of women and minorities were being systematically drowned out by the majoritarian politics of the Modi regime. Bilkis gave hope and strength to activists and student leaders who were being thrown behind bars for standing up for the unpopular truth in a democracy that was sliding into authoritarianism, and inspired peaceful copycat protests across the country.

She said to me as a parting note: "I will sit here till blood stops flowing in my veins so the children of this country and the world breathe the air of justice and equality." Bilkis deserves recognition so the world acknowledges the power of resistance against tyranny.

Ayyub is an Indian journalist and the author of Gujarat Files: Anatomy of a Cover Up

BILKIS: ANIL SHARMA—ALAMY

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TIME 100

Felipe Neto

Unlikely political powerhouse

BY DAVID MIRANDA

With 39 million YouTube subscribers and 12 million Twitter followers, Felipe Neto, 32, is the most consequential digital influencer in Brazil, possibly in the world.

Neto's online dominance is not new. A decade ago, from his family's humble Rio de Janeiro home, he began creating content for YouTube and quickly found fame, a huge and loyal young audience, and lucrative endorsements. What has changed—radically—is how Neto uses his platform. His early notoriety was generated by standard fare for online adolescents: video games, celebrities and girls. But with the 2018 election of far-right President Jair Bolsonaro and the empowerment of his proto-fascist movement, Neto, risking his brand and safety, repurposed his popularity to become one of Bolsonaro's most effective opponents.

Neto meets Bolsonaro on the very social-media platforms the President deftly navigated to disseminate false information and gain followers during his election. In May, Neto's video denouncing fellow influencers who remain silent about Bolsonaro's authoritarianism was viewed by millions. In July, he detailed how Bolsonaro has been the world's most destructive leader in the COVID-19 pandemic in a video for the New York *Times*. The Bolsonaro family has often responded to him on social media, sometimes later deleting their posts.

Neto's first major involvement in politics, in 2016, was a misguided protest against former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's center-left Workers' Party. His trajectory reflects a vital truth, which I, as a socialist Congressman, emphasize to the left: we should embrace and nourish the ability of humans to grow and evolve rather than writing them off for past transgressions.

When Felipe Neto speaks, millions listen. And his now righteous politicized voice powerfully resonates in a country whose democracy is imperiled.

Miranda is a Brazilian Congressman representing Rio de Janeiro

Chi Chia-wei

Equality trailblazer

BY TSAI ING-WEN

Ask anyone who's attended Taiwan Pride, and they can probably tell you about the first time they laid eyes on Chi Chia-wei, standing high above the crowds and waving a rainbow flag. That image exemplifies what he means to Taiwan's LGBTQ+ community: a symbol of hope to the next generation, the living embodiment of the idea that it truly does get better.

He began advocating for marriage equality decades ago, at a time when civic advocacy could serve as grounds for imprisonment in Taiwan. Despite the danger, he repeatedly brought his case for equal rights to the courts, and his persistence led to the Grand Justices' constitutional interpretation ruling that required the government to legalize same-sex marriage, which took effect in 2019.

Through the years, Chi has stood tall against immense prejudice with his larger-than-life courage. I'm confident that Chi will light the way to a future where everyone deserves to love and be loved.

Tsai is the President of Taiwan

NETO: ILLUSTRATION BY GLUEKIT FOR TIME. AFP/GETTY IMAGES; CHI: CHRIS STOWERS—PANOS PICTURES/REDUX

MEGAN RAPINOE

Unbreakable spirit

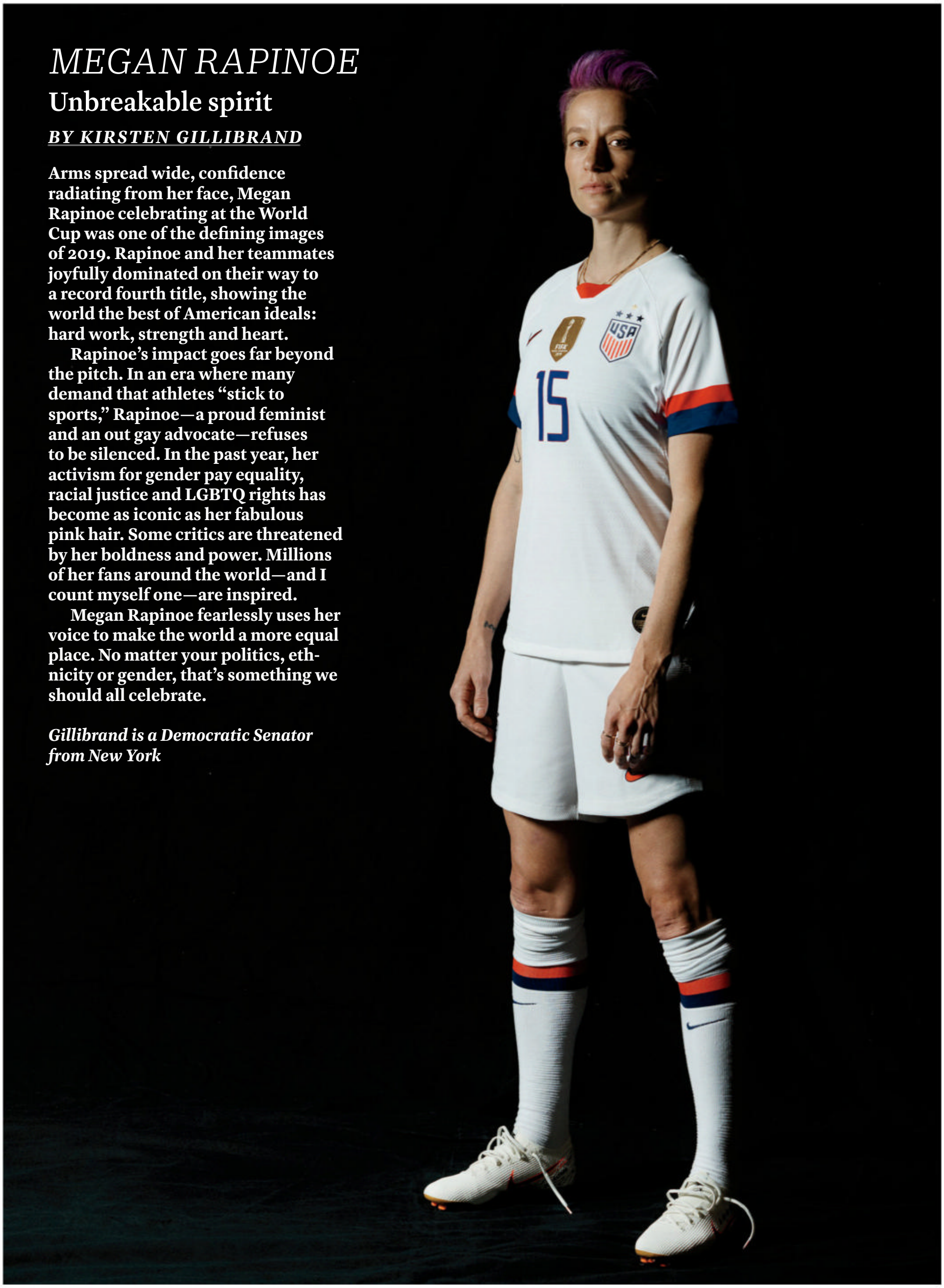
BY KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND

Arms spread wide, confidence radiating from her face, Megan Rapinoe celebrating at the World Cup was one of the defining images of 2019. Rapinoe and her teammates joyfully dominated on their way to a record fourth title, showing the world the best of American ideals: hard work, strength and heart.

Rapinoe's impact goes far beyond the pitch. In an era where many demand that athletes "stick to sports," Rapinoe—a proud feminist and an out gay advocate—refuses to be silenced. In the past year, her activism for gender pay equality, racial justice and LGBTQ rights has become as iconic as her fabulous pink hair. Some critics are threatened by her boldness and power. Millions of her fans around the world—and I count myself one—are inspired.

Megan Rapinoe fearlessly uses her voice to make the world a more equal place. No matter your politics, ethnicity or gender, that's something we should all celebrate.

Gillibrand is a Democratic Senator from New York



PHOTOGRAPH BY CAIT OPPERMANN FOR TIME

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THE WEEKND

Photograph by
Nabil Elderkin for TIME

ARTISTS
ARTISTS
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THE WEEKND

Phenomenal musician

BY ELTON JOHN

This year, I met Abel Tesfaye, who performs as the Weeknd, at an Oscars party. He said I would be excited when I heard his new album, *After Hours,* but didn't tell me why. That seemed to sum him up. He's a mysterious figure in an era when mystery is rare in pop. And you never know what to expect next. He plays with personae in his music and presentation: on the *After Hours* cover, he's dripping in blood; you're never sure if he's singing about himself, or if he's in character. He's got an incredible imagination.

It turned out he'd used the chorus of "Your Song" on a track called "Scared to Live"—he was right, I was excited—but he'll also sample the Smiths and Ethiopian singer Aster Aweke. "Blinding Lights" is 2020's best pop single, very '80s-influenced, but it's from an album that's otherwise very introspective. He has so many different types of music tucked up his sleeve that he incorporates into his vision. He's not interested in commerciality for commerciality's sake, but he's one of the biggest-streaming artists on Spotify. Like Prince, he marches to his own beat. That's an exemplary way for an artist to be.

John is a Grammy-, Tony- and Academy Award–winning singer-songwriter

Phoebe Waller-Bridge

Taking Hollywood by storm

BY TAYLOR SWIFT

The 2019 Emmys were full of glitz and glamour, but as far as the Internet was concerned, there was one image that stole the show. The picture in question launched thousands of tweets, ranging from "Phoebe Waller-Bridge at the Emmy's after party is a big fat mood" to "My vision board is just this photo 500 times" and the popular "THE POWER SHE HOLDS." It depicts Phoebe, mid-puff-of-smoke, blissfully relaxing on a sun lounger in a glittery Monique Lhuillier gown, surrounded by Emmys. It was, to paraphrase pretty much everyone who saw it, iconic.

But an image alone doesn't evoke this kind of passionate response without a story behind it. The reason this picture feels so good to see is that before this moment, there were seemingly endless drafts and rewrites and deadlines. There were countless times this writer was up at all hours of the night, not celebrating in the delicious glow of the light bouncing off her golden trophies, but racking her brain to try and stick a literary landing.

Sometimes all the puzzle pieces fall into place at the perfect time. A combination of razor-sharp instincts, killer wit and genuine care for the people she works with proved to be a winning hand. She is the executive producer and was a showrunner of the thrilling hit show *Killing Eve.* Her one-woman play *Fleabag* was adapted into a show that turned her into everyone's favorite self-sabotaging maker of mischief. (Phoebe has a habit of creating complex female antiheroes in a way that seemed previously reserved for male characters.) And she co-wrote the screenplay for the new Bond film. It's magical to see that all the rehearsals, baby steps, false starts and dead ends can lead to an extremely driven and unfathomably talented woman unwinding in a lounge chair surrounded by her winnings. Phoebe Waller-Bridge and all that she has achieved is, indeed, a big mood.

Swift is a Grammy Award–winning singer and songwriter

WALLER-BRIDGE: ILLUSTRATION BY GLUEKIT FOR TIME. GETTY IMAGES

JULIE MEHRETU

Reimagining our world

BY DAVID ADJAYE

Julie Mehretu's work—painting abstract three-dimensional landscapes that represent our often chaotic socio-political climate—is profoundly meaningful in the way that it frames stories and places. She creates her own language that serves as a portal to a place where expressionism collapses time, only to reveal our relationship to space.

At the 2019 Venice Biennale's 58th International exhibition, "May You Live in Interesting Times," Julie referenced maps, architectural diagrams and grids—scientific methodologies specific to architectural systems—and rendered them in a way fully unique to her. Her art holds qualities of memory, history, global mobilities, inequities and sense of place, but through a universal lens.

As an admirer and an architect, I'm both interested and encapsulated by Julie's ability to let us see reality as it is, rather than how we experience it through our own senses.

Adjaye is an architect

PHOTOGRAPH BY HEATHER STEN

TIME 100

SELENA GOMEZ

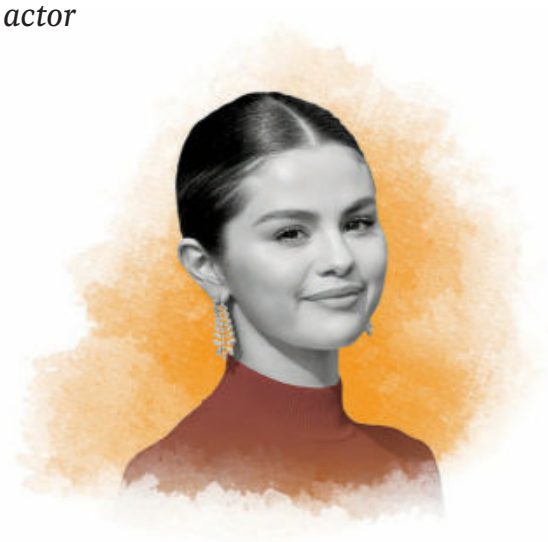
Powerful advocate

BY AMERICA FERRERA

Selena Gomez is unabashedly spreading her wings and influence into whatever lane her passions lead her. She has always been a great musician, but she's also always been *more* than her music. In the past year, in addition to releasing her third No. 1 album, *Rare,* Selena got her own cooking show on HBO Max, *Selena + Chef,* and will star in and executive-produce the Hulu comedy series *Only Murders in the Building.* She launched her own beauty line, with which she's pledged to raise $100 million over 10 years for mental-health services in underserved communities. She's used her enormous social-media platform to encourage voting and to support Black Lives Matter.

And, perhaps most important in a time when immigrants fear for their safety and ICE raids pepper the news, Selena has been an outspoken advocate for immigrant rights in America. Last year, she executive-produced the Netflix docuseries *Living Undocumented,* and told the story of her own family's emotional journey from Mexico to the U.S. in TIME. Selena courageously uses her global platform in service of her *full* identity. She is emblematic of her powerful generation, which patently rejects the notion that they belong in any one lane as artists, activists or citizens of the world.

Ferrera is an Emmy Award–winning actor



Dapper Dan

Trendsetter

BY MISSY ELLIOTT

Dapper Dan is the blueprint for our culture in hip-hop. He defined fashion in "the hood" and in celebrity culture. According to him, *dapper* no longer belonged just to Wall Street and business professionals; Dan claimed the term for the Black community. The first outfits of his that I remember were on the cover of Eric B. and Rakim's album *Paid in Full*—they were refreshing, a blend of hood and expensive. Then I began to see iconic looks from his creative mind on artists such as Big Daddy Kane and Salt-N-Pepa, and even on boxers like Mike Tyson and Floyd Mayweather.

I realized in watching Dan how truly inspiring he was—he never stopped working and always remained diligent to his craft. His influence extends far past his defining style;

he opened the first couture atelier ever in Harlem and stood up to racial discrimination in the fashion industry. Now, he has a groundbreaking collaboration collection with Gucci. With so many years in the game, he remains a culture leader, but he has stayed true to himself, and that will never go out of style.

With so many years in the game, Dan remains a culture leader, but he has stayed true to himself

Elliott is a Grammy Award–winning singer and producer

J Balvin

Global sensation

BY CAMILA CABELLO

When I first met J Balvin—or José, as his family and friends know him—my family and I were already huge fans of his. We would play "Ginza" and "Ay Vamos" at all our family parties. He was already making the people all over the world dance. When I found out I was on a song with him—"Hey Ma," my first song as a solo artist—I was so excited, but you're always nervous to meet your idols.

During a period of intense anxiety, I saw his posts on Instagram talking about his struggle with anxiety and mental health, and I remember bursting out crying because I no longer felt alone, amazed that someone who was achieving such incredible things was still vulnerable and brave enough to share that with the world. If there's one thing I would love everybody to know about him, it's this: José has always been so humble, hardworking and gracious, and so constantly grateful and kind. I've seen him become a top artist on Spotify and YouTube globally, nicknamed "the Prince of Reggaeton," his songs streamed more than 42 billion times, all while remaining true to himself, constantly uplifting his peers and supporting his friends, and dreaming *big*. He's opened up the doors for Latino artists everywhere by making the world hear and fall in love with our culture, our sounds and our spirit.

What I truly admire and love the most about José is that he is just himself. He's himself to the world, he's himself to his friends and his peers, and he's got the kind of heart that makes him a person everyone is rooting for. When he wins, we all win.

Cabello is a Grammy Award–nominated singer and songwriter

TIME 100

Michael B. Jordan

Star power

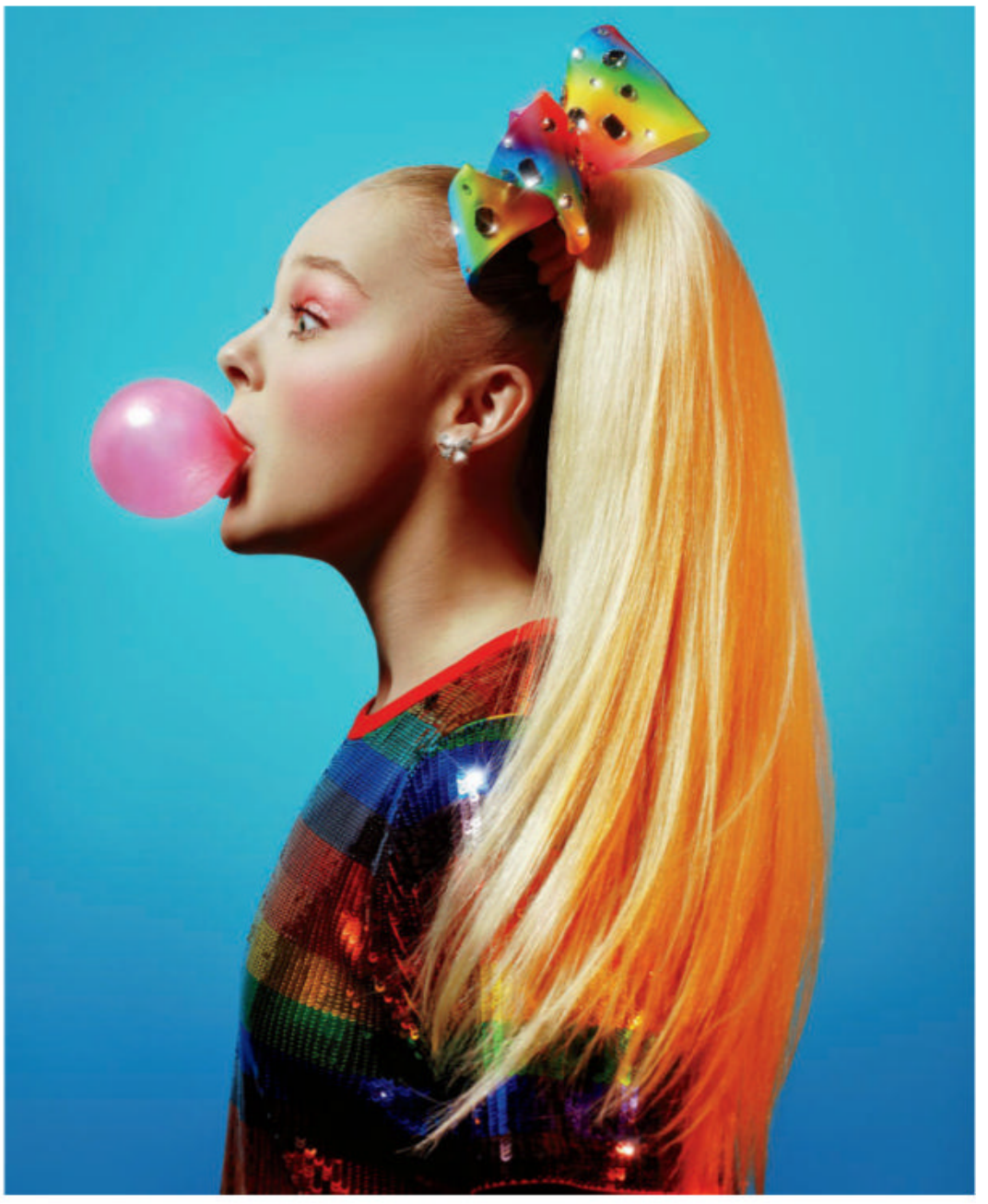
BY DENZEL WASHINGTON

I remember watching *Fruitvale Station* and thinking, "Who is this kid?" Michael B. Jordan just has a presence—and an energy and a talent—that stands out. It's refreshing. What I've learned about him in the short time I've known him has led me to admire his work ethic, his intensity and his desire for excellence. He's a go-getter, from the roles he chooses—including his powerful portrayal of civil rights attorney Bryan Stevenson in 2019's *Just Mercy*—to the way he uses his production company, Outlier Society, to push the cause of representation in Hollywood forward. He already is a force in front of the camera, but he's going to be an even bigger force behind the scenes. When it comes to Michael, we should expect the unexpected. I'm happy to be a small part of his journey, and I can't wait to see how it's going to turn out. He's the next generation, and it's good to know we're in good hands.

Washington is a Tony- and Academy Award–winning actor

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICKALENE THOMAS FOR TIME

SIWA: CHARLOTTE RUTHERFORD FOR TIME



JoJo Siwa

Genuine optimist

BY KIM KARDASHIAN WEST

JoJo Siwa is a ray of sunshine in a world that seems scary right now. As a parent, you want your kids to admire positive figures. There's no one more positive than JoJo. You just can't help but smile when you see her rainbow ponytail. She's a great role model for children, and her optimism is more necessary now than ever. It's no wonder my 7-year-old daughter North and millions of other children around the world adore her. When North met JoJo last year to fulfill her dream of being part of her YouTube channel, North got really shy. But JoJo, like a big sister, made her feel at home as they dressed up, danced and made slime.

JoJo is never ashamed to be herself, which can be really hard to do in this industry, especially when you're so young. When *Keeping Up With the Kardashians* first aired, I was old enough to know who I was and make my own decisions. I can't imagine what it's like to live this life at age 17. JoJo embraces it, and I hope she always will. At some point, she'll evolve and grow up a little bit, and that's O.K. The people who love and support her will always be there. Live in the moment. Have fun. Be yourself and surround yourself with people who will keep you positive.

Kardashian West is a businesswoman and television personality

YO-YO MA

Transcendent cellist

BY STEVIE WONDER

More than an extraordinary artist and a true musical genius, Yo-Yo Ma is proof of love and life. His gift to us is his music wrapped in a blanket of kind understanding that transcends all boundaries: ethnic, geographic, political, class and genre.

The sounds he brings through his cello teach us to listen, feel, care and act. His music takes us to a safe place and then inspires us to do the good and right that he knows is in the heart of humankind. This year, recognizing our need for this during the COVID-19 pandemic more than ever before, Ma began posting video performances to social media with the hashtag #SongsofComfort, encouraging others to join him. Soon the hashtag was populated with performances by James Taylor, Carole King, the Indigo Girls and many more artists. Ma brought them together to bring us together. Every time he shares his music, it is a master class in love.

Wonder is a Grammy Award–winning singer, songwriter and producer

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDY CROSS
THE DENVER POST/GETTY IMAGES

Ayushmann Khurrana

Pushing boundaries

BY DEEPIKA PADUKONE

I remember Ayushmann Khurrana vividly from his debut film, *Vicky Donor.* He had, of course, been a part of the entertainment industry in various other ways for several years before that, but the reason you and I talk about him today is because of the impact he has been able to create through memorable films and iconic characters. Where male protagonist roles often fall into the trap of stereotypical masculinity, Ayushmann has successfully and convincingly transformed into characters who challenge those very stereotypes.

In India, with a population of more than 1.3 billion, only a tiny percentage of people see their dreams come alive, and Ayushmann Khurrana is one of them. You're probably wondering, How? Talent and hard work. Sure, that goes without saying. But more important, patience, perseverance and fearlessness. A little insight for those who dare to dream.

Padukone is an actor and the founder of the Live Love Laugh Foundation for mental health

Anaïs Mitchell

Conjurer

BY ANDRÉ DE SHIELDS

Once upon a time in 2009, I was departing Central Park's Delacorte Theater, having completed a performance as Tiresias in a production of Euripides' *The Bacchae,* when I was introduced to Anaïs Mitchell by a mutual colleague. In the shadows cast by the pale light attacking us from the men's restroom, Anaïs seemed to be made entirely of magic. It was a brief but indelible encounter.

This was the alchemical quality that Anaïs brought to her great folk opera, the 2019 Broadway hit *Hadestown,* a cautionary tale adapted from the Greek myth of Orpheus rescuing his love Eurydice from the underworld, which teaches that love cannot be found if faith has been lost. Anaïs has the aura of an oracle, the prescience of a blind poet and the skill to tease rhymes from consonants. It was the wonder of watching Anaïs respond with awe to her own creation that served as the company's guiding beacon throughout the arduous journey from concept to execution.

I am a man who invests great credence in omens and signs. It took 10 years for that chance meeting in 2009 to unfold as the Tony Award winner for best musical of 2019, but I'm so glad it did, and not a moment too soon. During this COVID era of great anxiety and uncertainty, I look forward to the resurgence of Broadway, the return of *Hadestown* and the promise of Anaïs' lyrics: "We raise our cups to Orpheus and all of us."

De Shields is an Emmy-, Grammy- and Tony Award–winning actor

KHURRANA: KUNAL GUPTA; MITCHELL: ILLUSTRATION BY GLUEKIT FOR TIME. GETTY IMAGES: HALSEY: GETTY IMAGES

HALSEY

Incandescent soul

BY BTS

Halsey is the type of person who leaves a lasting impression on everyone she meets. She has an incredible ability to exude this magic from within herself. Her bold spirit really shines through her music and performances, as well as her life. And that spirit and passion have been instilled in us and inspired artistic ambitions of our own.

We were first introduced to Halsey's music through "Closer" and "Without Me." Her latest project, *Manic,* in which one of us—SUGA—had the honor of taking part, is among the most genuine pieces of work we've ever encountered. Knowing her music, the decision to collaborate with her on our single "Boy With Luv" was one of the easiest calls we've ever had to make. It just had to be her.

Halsey's spirit and passion have inspired artistic ambitions of our own

Working with her was everything we could have wished for and more. Halsey is not only a strikingly talented artist, but also a dedicated partner who sincerely devotes everything to the art we create together. She inspires us, and we're incredibly honored to be able to call her our cherished friend. We cannot wait to see what she has for the world down the road.

BTS is a multiplatinum-selling pop group

LASTESIS: RODRIGO GARRIDO—REUTERS; BONG: AGENCE VU/REDUX

LASTESIS

Voice of a movement

BY NADYA TOLOKONNIKOVA

"Art is not a mirror held up to reality but a hammer with which to shape it," said Bertolt Brecht, a playwright known for his demand to break the fourth wall, the one that separates performers and the audience. Nobody should be a mere passive spectator. We are artists, but we are not entertainers—that's always been Pussy Riot's motto. LASTESIS, the Chilean feminist performance collective, shows today how popular art can be about changing the world, not entertaining.

LASTESIS created an international hit song and viral dance, and unlike most bangers, it's not about that Friday party. Five days after the group first performed "Un violador en tu camino" ("A Rapist in Your Path"), they performed in Santiago, Chile, outside the country's Supreme Court on Nov. 25, 2019, to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and it quickly became a feminist anthem worldwide. The dance features squats, because when they arrest you, the cops strip you down and you're forced to squat in front of them. (I've done it; nothing is more disgusting.) Now it has been performed by activists in more than 52 countries.

LASTESIS calls their performances "interventions." "And it wasn't my fault, where I was, or how I dressed/ The rapist was you, the rapist is you/ It's the police, the judges, the state, the President/ The oppressive state is a macho rapist," goes the LASTESIS song, and women all around the world relate to these words. Victim blaming and slut shaming are the deeply ideological assumptions that are built into our brains, education and legal systems globally. It has to be changed. The 21st century is the century of sisterhood. Screw you, Weinsteins of the world. We have just started.

Tolokonnikova is a member of Pussy Riot

PHOTOGRAPH BY CYRIL ZANNETTACCI

Bong Joon Ho

Cinematic delight

BY TILDA SWINTON

There is a word in Korean, *ahjussi,* which refers to an average older man. In some family photographs of a certain era, you can see that the Korean father—*ahjussi*—has parked one foot on a curb, a hand on his hip, and taken his gaze insouciantly off into the distance: staunch, detached and, at the same time, somehow heroic. Bong Joon Ho and I have always found what we call the "*ahjussi* pose" unbelievably funny, the way this attitude of the casual born out of undeniable shyness renders every participant looking like nothing more than the model for a vintage knitting pattern. Over the past decade, including—unforgettably—on the great steps of the Grand Palais at Cannes, we have recorded countless *ahjussi* poses. On newsstands in January, Director Bong struck a magnificent specimen of the form on the cover of *Vanity Fair,* wedged against a prop chair, looking otherwise engaged.

This is the filmmaker who, this year, has risen into the 2020 vision of the entire cinepassionate planet like a new sun. Whip-smart, highly skilled, supremely cine-literate, exuberant, irreverent, self-determining, deeply romantic, with a voracious delight in the absurd, highly principled, precision-tuned, compassionate to the last: his films have always been all this. It just seems to be time for the world to catch up.

He is the ultimate sophisticate cinematic fanboy whilst harboring not a drop of either snobbery or cynicism: he is good for cinema from start to finish. And the person? Sweet-hearted, loyal, amused, cozy, playful, sincere, especially hilarious when in his cups, fiercely familial, gloriously silly, unfailingly kind. Diamond.

Swinton is an Academy Award–winning actor

MICHAELA COEL

New oracle

BY LENA WAITHE

You don't just watch Michaela Coel shows; you experience them. With *Chewing Gum* and *I May Destroy You*, she takes you on these wild, funny, vulnerable rides, and you never know when the drops are coming. You also don't care, because they're exhilarating.

Michaela makes work that forces the audience to grapple with themselves while also taking herself to task. Usually, with Black women protagonists, everyone's mission is to make you like or root for them. But Michaela shows us that sometimes we can be our own worst enemy. She reminds me that the only person who can destroy me is myself. She's showing us a piece of ourselves that is rarely captured onscreen.

In my mind she's a descendant of Nina Simone. She doesn't need our approval or applause; she's too busy relishing her newfound freedom. She knows she was put here to make art. She knows she was put here to speak truth to power. Simone once said, "I'll tell you what freedom is to me: no fear." Michaela obviously has fear, because she's a human being. But she's not afraid to put that fear aside—and to step out in front of those who are still waiting to be free.

Waithe is an Emmy Award–winning writer and producer

Ali Wong

The real deal

BY CHRISSY TEIGEN

I remember being pregnant when Ali Wong's first Netflix special came out. Not only was I doubled over laughing, but I felt like I had found my kindred spirit. It seemed like I knew her and she knew me before we ever met.

As an Asian-American woman, it's so cool to see someone who represents our shared cultural heritage but also defies every stereotype. She is open about her sexuality, she boldly discusses her body and its many functions, she makes fun of her husband, she makes fun of her kids—I feel at one with her.

It's amazing to see her work her magic on the audience. She treats comedy like a science; she knows how to tell jokes the way people want to hear them, and she knows when to be physical. It became such an iconic thing to see her thrust her hips and twerk or grind. People usually see pregnant women as helpless beings who can't do too much, but she had this energy and personality and was funnier than ever when she was pregnant. Ali is proof that you don't have to fit the stereotype of what a comedian should look like or say or how a woman should present herself. Women often feel this need to apologize or to make ourselves small. Ali may be small in stature, but she has the biggest presence. She assures women that you can be loud, you can be funny, you can be silly, you can make fun of yourself, you can be gross, and you can talk about the hell that is childbirth and you don't have to be proper about it. She makes it O.K. for us to be ourselves.

Teigen is the founder of Cravings, a cooking website and brand

COEL: ANNA ROSOVA; WONG: ROZETTE RAGO—THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX; HUDSON: DYLAN COULTER

Jennifer Hudson

Sparkling talent

BY MARY J. BLIGE

Ever since Jennifer Hudson left *American Idol* without even winning and went on to win an Oscar for *Dreamgirls,* she's been nothing but an inspiration to women of all generations in our culture. She's a beautiful person, calm and humble, professional and reserved on set—like me. She brings raw talent to both the music and film industries.

After filming *Respect* with her last year, and watching the parts of Aretha Franklin's life that Jennifer is playing, I see why Aretha chose her for that role: she saw her younger self in Jennifer. Of course, she picked her for her powerful voice, but she also picked her for her personality—her quiet strength. Aretha had the same type of strength.

Jennifer's a beautiful person, and brings raw talent to both the music and film industries

Jennifer brings her whole self to everything she does. It's a blessing. She has developed such an impressive career as a singer and actor because of her work ethic and her professionalism—and of course her talent. Every time I see her, I acknowledge how great she is.

Blige is a Grammy Award–winning and Academy Award–nominated singer, songwriter and actor

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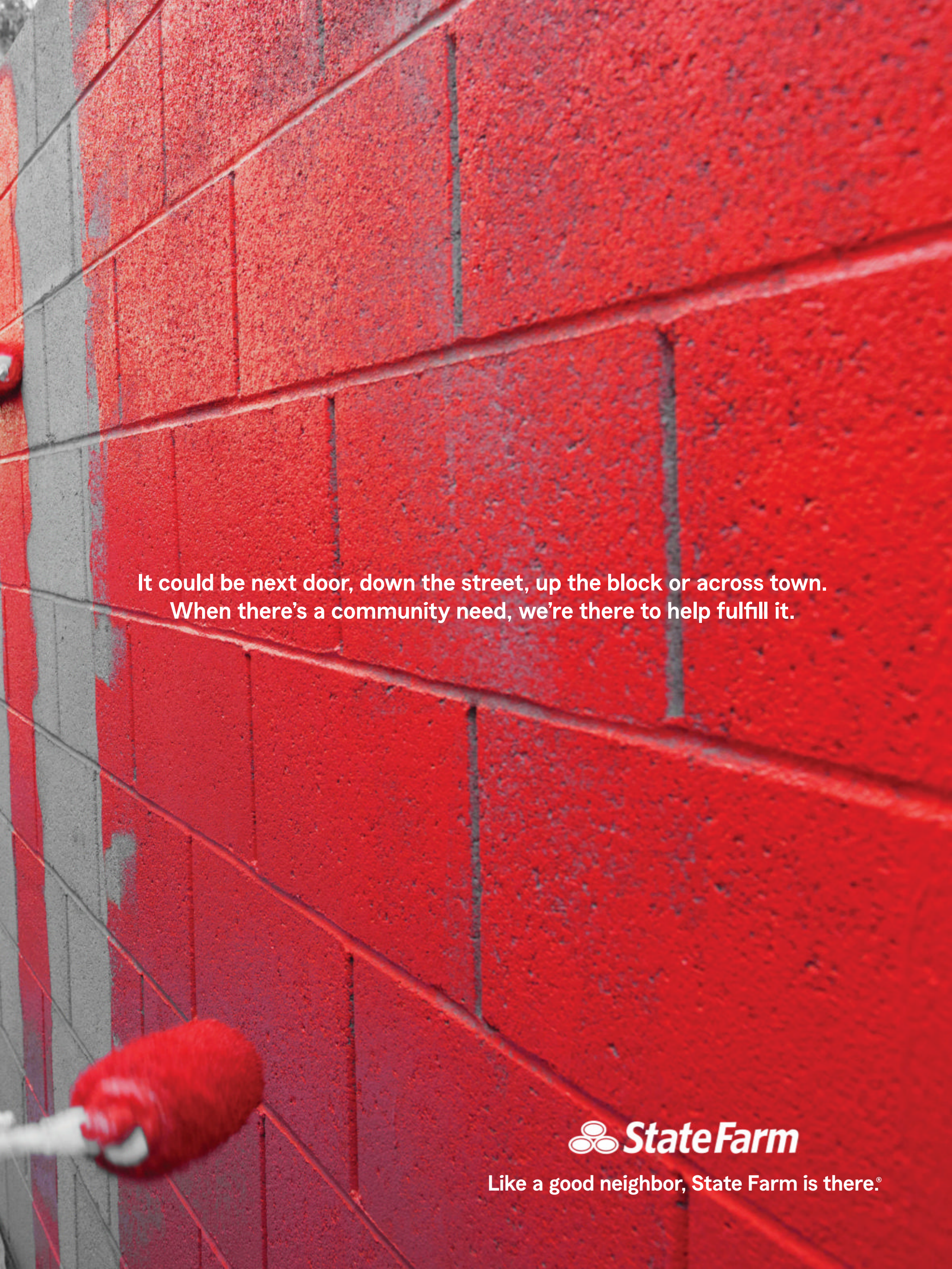
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ANTHONY FAUCI

Photograph by Stefan Ruiz for TIME

TIME 100

ANTHONY FAUCI

Public servant

BY JIMMY KIMMEL

As the COVID-19 pandemic began to spread to the U.S., there was one person millions of Americans immediately knew we could turn to for guidance: Dr. Anthony Fauci. As director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Dr. Fauci has advised six Presidents over 36 years. When COVID-19 reared its ugly head, he was among the first to step forward with facts and only facts.

Dr. Fauci doesn't sugarcoat his words and refuses to be pressured by politicians. He delivers the truth, as difficult as it may be to hear, earnestly and with one goal: to save lives. His courage and candor have earned our trust. We are all fortunate to have a man of his wisdom, experience and integrity to help us navigate these difficult waters.

Kimmel is the host and an executive producer of Jimmy Kimmel Live!

Narendra Modi

Weakening democracy

BY KARL VICK

The key to democracy is not, in fact, free elections. Those only tell who got the most votes. More important is the rights of those who did not vote for the winner. India has been the world's largest democracy for more than seven decades. Its population of 1.3 billion includes Christians, Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains and other religious sects. All have abided in India, which the Dalai Lama (who has spent most of his life in refuge there) has lauded as "an example of harmony and stability."

Narendra Modi has brought all that into doubt. Though almost all of India's Prime Ministers have come from the nearly 80% of the population that is Hindu, only Modi has governed as if no one else matters. First elected on a populist promise of empowerment, his Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party rejected not only elitism but also pluralism, specifically targeting India's Muslims. The crucible of the pandemic became a pretense for stifling dissent. And the world's most vibrant democracy fell deeper into shadow.

Vick is a TIME editor at large

MODI: ILLUSTRATION BY GLUEKIT FOR TIME. T. NARAYAN—BLOOMBERG/GETTY IMAGES; HENRY: THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX

MARY KAY HENRY

Champion of workers

BY BISHOP WILLIAM BARBER II

When COVID-19 hit and governors across the U.S. began implementing shutdowns this spring, my phone rang. It was Mary Kay Henry. Politicians were talking about "essential workers." Crowds were cheering at the shift changes outside hospitals. But as the leader of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), one of the largest labor unions in America, which represents millions of health care workers, among others, Mary Kay knew we needed to hear from the workers themselves. We agreed to co-host a weekly web show called *Walkout Wednesdays* as a virtual picket line where they could tell their stories. Meanwhile, she continued to advocate and win protections for workers on the front lines, including PPE guarantees, hazard pay, extended health care and paid sick leave. Now she's working to help get them to the polls.

Poor and low-income Americans have gotten poorer in this pandemic, even as billionaires and banks have seen their wealth increase. Mary Kay knows that our democracy cannot endure this extreme inequality. But she also knows that poor and low-income people of every color and creed can revive the heart of this democracy when they are empowered to rise up together and build a society that works for all of us. This is why she fights to give them a voice.

Barber is president of Repairers of the Breach and a co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival

PHOTOGRAPH BY GUERIN BLASK

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

The world's doctor

BY NGOZI OKONJO-IWEALA

Crises so often tell us who we are and what we're made of. For Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the COVID-19 pandemic is just such a defining moment.

Throughout his career, and as director-general of the World Health Organization, Tedros has stood firmly for equity and access—the idea that all people, wherever they are and whatever their circumstances, have the right to quality health care.

It's a principle he surely acquired as a child in Ethiopia, where he saw with his own eyes how preventable diseases took the lives of children around him, including his own young brother. It drove him to play a personal role in the response to the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo. And it shaped him into the face of hope and determination at the center of the COVID-19 storm.

An experienced scientist and public-health leader, Tedros knows that until we protect the most vulnerable among us from COVID-19, none of us is protected.

Okonjo-Iweala is chair of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; a WHO and African Union envoy on COVID-19; and former Finance Minister of Nigeria

Bonnie Castillo

Protecting nurses

BY DOLORES HUERTA

As a registered nurse and executive director of National Nurses United and the California Nurses Association, Bonnie Castillo is a visionary and a leader. She was among the first to call attention to the lack of personal protective equipment (PPE) available to nurses across the U.S. during the COVID-19 pandemic, and fought layoffs and pay cuts that nurses faced despite their vital frontline work.

Bonnie's commitment to the labor movement and unions is unwavering; she states that unions are the foundation of a democratic society. Bonnie does not just work to heal patients; she works to heal society. As a mother and grandmother of nurses, I thank Bonnie, and all nurses—including those who have died while serving—for their heroic work in this critical time.

Huerta is a civil rights activist who co-founded what is now the United Farm Workers of America

TEDROS: MARIDELIS MORALES ROSADO FOR TIME; CASTILLO: ILLUSTRATION BY GLUEKIT FOR TIME; NATIONAL NURSES UNITED; XI: JUSTIN CHIN—BLOOMBERG/GETTY IMAGES

XI JINPING

Total control

BY AMANDA BENNETT

Xi Jinping stands today as China's seemingly invulnerable top leader. His anticorruption campaign struck at kleptocrats, some in his own family, while also conveniently purging rivals. His authoritarian moves rival the world's most extreme: corralling ethnic Uighurs into camps, suppressing violent anti-China protests in Hong Kong and ushering in powerful social-monitoring technology. Completing the look is the Mao Zedong–like cult of personality Xi allows or encourages—including his own Little Red Book. The result: a foreign policy and economic juggernaut expanding around the world.

Xi may yet come to regret that he is now effectively China's leader for life

Still, just as the sudden fall of the Soviet Union exposed previously unseen cracks, Xi may yet come to regret that he is now effectively China's leader for life. A shrinking and aging workforce, the cost of the global Belt and Road Initiative (built on debt, not cash) and internal griping—or worse—from victims of a slowing economy exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic that began on his watch mean Xi's success may not be his final act.

Bennett is a Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist and author

JOE BIDEN

The challenger

BY JAMES E. CLYBURN

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once intoned, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." Our delicately constructed institutions are fraying. The motto on our Great Seal, *e pluribus unum,* "out of many, one," seems beyond reach. Presidential leadership is woefully lacking. In short, the state of our union is uncertain. I don't take my endorsement of a presidential candidate lightly, but the nation's circumstances and Dr. King's admonition were on my mind when I stood up on Feb. 26 and declared, "I know Joe, we know Joe, but more importantly, Joe knows us." I meant what I said that day.

I bonded with Joe through extensive discussions of shared experiences regarding our states' challenges in response to *Brown v. Board of Education.* Like most Americans, Joe Biden knows hardship; he knows disappointment; he knows sacrifice and moments of contentment. It's one thing to run to lead a country at its high point, but I believe it speaks volumes to Joe's character that he will fight to lead us through these unprecedented challenges. Joe Biden is honest, compassionate and empathetic—but most of all, he is a public servant.

Clyburn is a Democratic Congressman from South Carolina and the House majority whip

Nemonte Nenquimo

Defending the Amazon

BY LEONARDO DICAPRIO

Last year, the Amazon was better known for acres ablaze than for acres saved. But the lawsuit that Nemonte Nenquimo, president of the Waorani of Pastaza and a co-founder of the Ceibo Alliance, brought forth was a rare bright spot. The landmark ruling protects the Waorani's ancestral home in Ecuador from immediate destruction. The ripples have brought hope to Indigenous communities everywhere, all too often facing overwhelming odds of their own. Nemonte lives her fight, and to have a conversation with her is to witness a rare clarity of purpose. I remember she once told me that she wasn't going to give up. That she was going to keep fighting. That she would continue to defend the forest that she loves from the industries and the oil companies that would devour it.

She has kept her word, and continues to be a voice and advocate for her community. Nemonte's cause is all our cause. She inspires those she speaks with to shoulder the nearest boulder and walk alongside her as her movement continues to grow. I am lucky to have met her, and I am luckier still to have learned from her.

DiCaprio is an Academy Award–winning actor and environmentalist

KYLE RIVAS—GETTY IMAGES

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEFAN RUIZ

TIME 100

Jung Eun-kyeong

Rapid responder

BY MOON JAE-IN

South Korea's response to the COVID-19 pandemic has become a global example. Dr. Jung Eun-kyeong, commissioner of the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA), has led the nation's antivirus efforts to success by candidly interacting with the public, based on the principles of openness, transparency and democracy.

When the first COVID-19 case was confirmed in Korea, Commissioner Jung stood before the people. Since then, she has personally held daily briefings to release transparent updates on the number of confirmed cases; the origins of their infections; and the latest figures on tests, quarantine and treatment. The public, in return, has exhibited the power of solidarity and cooperation by voluntarily following individual hygiene rules such as wearing face masks, washing hands frequently and observing social distancing.

As the first female chief of KDCA and also a preventive-medicine specialist, Commissioner Jung has enhanced the organization's preparedness. Six months before the COVID-19 outbreak, she helped create a manual on response procedures for unidentified mass infections, and conducted drills on a sophisticated emergency-response algorithm.

Bernard Rieux in Albert Camus' *The Plague* says, "The only way to fight the plague is with decency." I believe Commissioner Jung's decency and dedication are indeed a story worth telling—one that will serve as an inspiration for the many Commissioner Jungs around the world desperately fighting COVID-19, and for humanity as we advance toward the post-COVID-19 era.

Moon is the President of South Korea

ANGELA MERKEL

Following the facts

BY URSULA VON DER LEYEN

Angela Merkel is an unusual politician. Many are fond of quick fixes and crowd-pleasing slogans, but Angela likes complex problems. She has the capacity to factor in many external and internal considerations when working toward a solution. She takes a long view and, where possible, avoids saying too much too soon.

As a minister in her government from 2005, I was able to benefit on a number of occasions from her strategic patience. When I was convinced by an idea or a project and wanted to forge ahead, she would simply say, "You're taking the right course. But let's wait a bit." And when the time was right, I could always rely on her. Angela is a tough

negotiator. Despite all her years in office, she can still look any opposite number in the eye. She achieves her negotiating goals in ways that also allow all parties to reach compromise. We saw this play out in the financial crisis, the euro crisis and now the coronavirus crisis. Although she is sparing with her words, people all over the world know that they can trust Angela, especially when a storm is gathering.

Crises always help separate the wheat from the chaff, including in government. That she is being honored today says everything you need to know.

Von der Leyen is president of the European Commission

Jair Bolsonaro

Populist pariah

BY DAN STEWART

The story of Brazil's year can be told in numbers: 137,000 lives lost to the coronavirus. The worst recession in 40 years. At least five ministers sacked or resigned from the Cabinet. More than 29,000 fires in the Amazon rain forest in August alone. One President whose stubborn skepticism about the pandemic and indifference to environmental despoliation has driven all these figures upward.

Yet the number that really matters is 37—the percentage of Brazilian society that approved of Jair Bolsonaro in a late-August poll, the highest rating since he took office early last year. Despite a storm of corruption allegations, and one of the highest COVID-19 death tolls in the world, the right-wing firebrand remains popular with a large section of Brazilians. Bolsonaro's approval rating is partly due to the monthly emergency-relief payments made to the country's poorest during the pandemic. But it also reflects the fervent, almost cultlike following he commands. To his base, he can simply do no wrong. It's the rest of Brazil, and the world, that is left to count the cost.

Stewart is TIME's international editor

JUNG: ILLUSTRATION BY GLUEKIT FOR TIME, YONHAP/EPA-EFE/SHUTTERSTOCK; MERKEL: MICHAEL KAPPELER—DPA/AP; BOLSONARO: ZAK BENNETT—AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Ursula von der Leyen

Prescient powerhouse

BY CHRISTINE LAGARDE

Ursula von der Leyen is a politician who relishes a challenge and is undeterred by adversity. Originally a trained physician, she has been a top-ranking German politician for 14 years, including as Germany's first female Defense Minister—a truly multifaceted *Powerfrau*. She will undoubtedly serve Europe well as the first female president of the European Commission, a role she assumed in December. She aspires to a Europe that is carbon-neutral by 2050, fit for the digital age and resilient to global challenges.

As a mother of seven children and head of an organization with around 32,000 staff members, Ursula is an accomplished multitasker. Her faculty for keeping calm and carrying on has helped her face the worst economic shock since World War II: the COVID-19 crisis. In May, she proposed a €750 billion recovery fund, which was endorsed by E.U. leaders nearly two months later. True to her elegant style and calm temperament, she epitomized grace under pressure even when pushing through this historic deal.

In May, she proposed a historic €750 billion COVID-19 recovery fund, which was endorsed by E.U. leaders

Lagarde is president of the European Central Bank

VON DER LEYEN: AUGUSTO CASASOLI—A3/CONTRASTO/REDUX; TRUMP: MANDEL NGAN—AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Caesar's courage stemmed from his integrity, and his belief in the power of photography as evidence

Caesar

Exposing atrocities

BY LYNSEY ADDARIO

In one of 53,275 photographs taken by Caesar, the pseudonym of a former Syrian government forensic photographer, at least two dozen emaciated bodies are shown laid out in the garage of military hospital No. 601 in Mezze, Damascus. Hip bones and rib cages protrude from the sea of mostly naked men. From 2011 to 2013, Caesar focused his viewfinder on the bodies of people who died from unfathomable torture, starvation and imprisonment.

Then, he took a great risk: Caesar made copies of his images documenting the war crimes of Syrian President Bashar Assad and his regime, and had them smuggled out of the country. He could have been detained, tortured and executed. But his extraordinary courage stemmed ultimately from his integrity and his belief in the power of photography as evidence. Caesar's photographs are the most concrete proof of crimes against humanity by the Assad regime to date.

The images, coupled with his brave testimony on Capitol Hill, led to the passage of the 2019 Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act, which sanctions the Assad government and anyone doing business with it, because of its war crimes. Caesar's selfless courage helped the international community take a much needed step toward holding the Assad regime accountable for killing its own people with impunity.

Addario is a Pulitzer Prize–winning photojournalist

DONALD TRUMP

The disrupter

BY BRIAN BENNETT

With all 230 gleaming feet of Air Force One stretched out behind him on a recent September evening, President Donald Trump told a campaign rally in Freeland, Mich., "We are changing Washington." Fact-check: true. In nearly four years, his norm-shattering presidency has shown that a President willing to repeatedly slam through the guardrails can bend the government, often to serve his personal political interests. Trump was impeached by the Democratic-led House for doing just this—pressuring Ukraine to publicize an investigation into his political rival Joe Biden—before being acquitted by the GOP-controlled Senate this year. He dangled clemency to keep former aides silent and threatened political enemies with jail.

Trump's calculations have had real-world consequences. He's stripped away environmental regulations, even as the changing climate brings widespread fires and more powerful hurricanes. He downplayed the severity of COVID-19 early on, refused for months to wear a mask and pressured government scientists to change their recommendations, as the virus spread to eventually kill more than 200,000 Americans. He's ignored calls for a national reckoning with structural racism and fanned the flames of racial unrest, sending federal agents to confront protesters and selling himself as the "law and order" candidate. Some of his power plays have paid off. He followed through on a 2016 campaign promise to appoint conservative judges, and he now faces the potential to have named three Supreme Court Justices in a single term, reshaping the bench for a generation. After insisting the U.S. exit the Iran nuclear deal two years ago—and playing up a common threat from Tehran—Trump helped broker closer ties between Israel and Gulf Arab states, delivering a historic deal. Voters will decide on Election Day whether Trump's use of power will be a cautionary tale or a preview of more to come.

Bennett is TIME's senior White House correspondent

TSAI ING-WEN

Resolute leader

BY TED CRUZ

President Tsai Ing-wen is a signal lamp casting out China's looming shadow, conveying to the world that Taiwan will not acquiesce to the Chinese Communist Party.

While Taiwan stands a mere 100 miles from mainland China, under President Tsai's leadership, it is neither adrift nor drawn in. Freedom is its North Star, which has been clear in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Taiwan has proved that the virus can be controlled—without emulating China's drastic policies.

When cynics said Taiwan was too small and too isolated to stand up against China's regional ambitions, President Tsai stood tall. When China lured Taiwan's allies into cutting off ties with the island nation, President Tsai was undeterred. I had the honor of meeting President Tsai last year during Taiwan's National Day celebrations, and I witnessed firsthand how she stands up for the rights of Taiwan's people.

China is the world's largest communist regime, and this self-made woman is determined to resist it. She does not cower.

Cruz is a Republican Senator from Texas

William Barr

Presidential protector

BY TESSA BERENSON

When President Donald Trump told his Ukrainian counterpart on July 25, 2019, that he would have William Barr give him a call, Trump immortalized Barr's role in the politically motivated pressure campaign that led to the third presidential impeachment in U.S. history. But the fateful 30-minute conversation was just one example of how Barr, more than any other Attorney General since the Watergate era, has emerged as a protector of his boss.

In his first months on the job, Barr spun in Trump's favor investigations by special counsel Robert Mueller and Inspector General Michael Horowitz. He pushed foreign governments to help with a third probe of Trump's perceived enemies in the FBI. Barr surged forces to American cities that Trump attacked as "Democrat-led." He walked beside Trump through Lafayette Square in June after peaceful Black Lives Matter protesters had been violently cleared by federal agents.

At stake is the Justice Department's reputation for independent law enforcement. It's not clear whether Barr is guided by loyalty to Trump or a belief in sweeping Executive power. Either way, he has proved himself a top defender of the President. Trump famously criticized his previous Attorney General for what he saw as a failure to protect him. He didn't have to worry about William Barr.

Berenson is TIME's White House correspondent

TSAI: NHU XUAN HUA FOR TIME; BARR: ILLUSTRATION BY GLUEKIT FOR TIME. CHIP SOMODEVILLA—GETTY IMAGES; HIDALGO: LIONEL PREAU—RIVA PRESS/REDUX

Anne Hidalgo

Urban climate visionary

BY AL GORE

Five years ago, leaders from nearly every country on earth gathered in the City of Light to sign the historic Paris Agreement, setting a road map for the world to reduce greenhouse emissions that are warming our planet. The host of that epic event was the mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo, who has further burnished her city's legacy as a leader in the movement to solve the climate crisis since then. Even in the midst of confronting the global pandemic, Mayor Hidalgo has turned Paris into a shining example of how cities can lead the transition to cleaner, healthier and more prosperous societies. She is transforming the city's landscape to make it friendlier to pedestrians and bikers, cutting car traffic and making the air safer to breathe.

Mayor Hidalgo has turned Paris into a shining example of how cities can lead the transition to cleaner, healthier and more prosperous societies

In our increasingly urban world, there is so much opportunity for cities—which are already responsible for 70% of global greenhouse-gas emissions—to lead the global fight. Mayor Hidalgo is a visionary leader—the kind of leader who demonstrates how local action can solve the climate crisis.

Gore is a former Vice President of the U.S., and founder and chairman of the Climate Reality Project

TIME 100

JOHN ROBERTS

Guardian of the court

BY ANTHONY KENNEDY

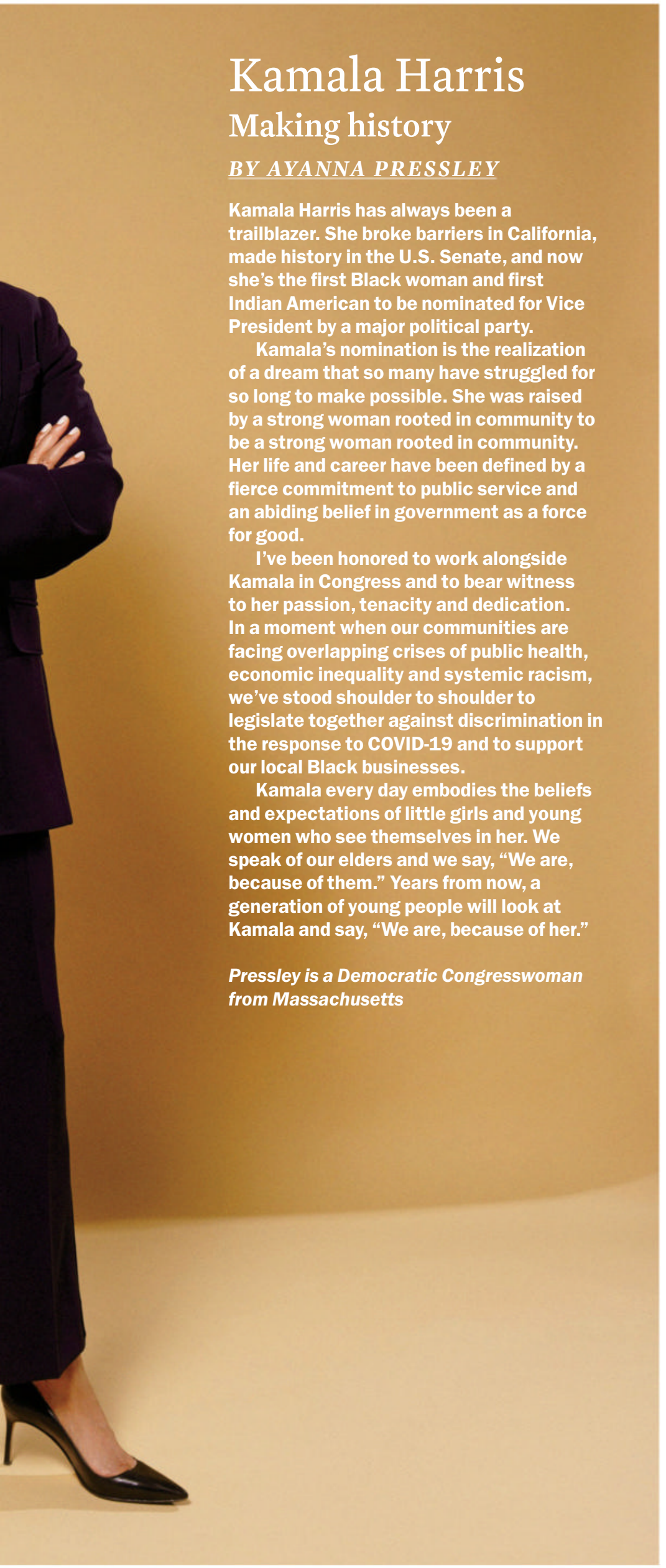
The Supreme Court finds that each new Justice brings some changes, usually subtle, to the personal interactions among the nine persons who may serve together for years on end. Those changes are more evident and far-reaching when the new appointee is the Chief Justice. Over our long history, referring to the court as "the Marshall court" or "the Warren court" is more than a convenient shorthand. The character and temperament of the one in the court's center chair are powerful influences on the tone and tenor of the court's discussions and proceedings, and on how best to address profound legal and constitutional questions. The court has been unchanging in its unyielding commitment to preserve and safeguard its historic place in our constitutional system.

In all these respects, the nation is fortunate that John Roberts is its Chief Justice. He is no longer new on the court. Over the past 15 years, the Roberts court has been shaped by his personal modesty and his professional, scholarly skills. He has strengthened the court and the rule of law it upholds.

In this era, when other branches of government and institutions in our wider society are insensitive to their own incivility, the Roberts court continues to decide questions central to the nation in a civil, thoughtful, rational, dignified way. John Roberts and the court teach that we have freedom but must work always to keep it.

Kennedy served as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court from 1988 to 2018

ROBERTS: ILLUSTRATION BY GLUEKIT FOR TIME; LEAH MILLIS—GETTY IMAGES; AL OTAIBA; JON GAMBRELL—AP



Kamala Harris

Making history

BY AYANNA PRESSLEY

Kamala Harris has always been a trailblazer. She broke barriers in California, made history in the U.S. Senate, and now she's the first Black woman and first Indian American to be nominated for Vice President by a major political party.

Kamala's nomination is the realization of a dream that so many have struggled for so long to make possible. She was raised by a strong woman rooted in community to be a strong woman rooted in community. Her life and career have been defined by a fierce commitment to public service and an abiding belief in government as a force for good.

I've been honored to work alongside Kamala in Congress and to bear witness to her passion, tenacity and dedication. In a moment when our communities are facing overlapping crises of public health, economic inequality and systemic racism, we've stood shoulder to shoulder to legislate together against discrimination in the response to COVID-19 and to support our local Black businesses.

Kamala every day embodies the beliefs and expectations of little girls and young women who see themselves in her. We speak of our elders and we say, "We are, because of them." Years from now, a generation of young people will look at Kamala and say, "We are, because of her."

Pressley is a Democratic Congresswoman from Massachusetts

Yousef Al Otaiba

Reshaping the Middle East

BY VIVIENNE WALT

Despite the United Arab Emirates' minuscule size, its longtime ambassador wields major clout in Washington. Yousef Al Otaiba has spent years cultivating key players over lavish dinners and major charity donations—piddling gestures for the superrich Gulf state, but tradable currency in the U.S. capital.

All the schmoozing has paid off. Since 2016, Al Otaiba has helped the Emirates' ally, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, build close ties with the Trump Administration, despite the Saudis' abysmal human-rights record. He has successfully urged U.S. support for the Gulf allies' war in Yemen, which has left over 100,000 dead and triggered a famine that will kill thousands more. He counts among his friends Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and top adviser.

Now Al Otaiba is the public face of a reshaped Middle East. He played a key role in the UAE's formal recognition of Israel in August, by laying out a deal for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in an Israeli newspaper: abandon plans to annex Palestinian land, in exchange for diplomatic ties. It was an irresistible offer—just the kind that Al Otaiba, after years of splurging on powerful friends, was in prime position to make.

Walt is a TIME correspondent

PHOTOGRAPH BY NOLWEN CIFUENTES FOR TIME

Nancy Pelosi

The strategist

BY HAKEEM JEFFRIES

On Jan. 3, 2019, Nancy D'Alesandro Pelosi retook the reins as Speaker of the most diverse Congress ever, in the midst of the longest government shutdown in American history.

Since that moment, the country has careened from crisis to crisis, including children caged at the border, the impeachment of the President, a possible war with Iran, the COVID-19 pandemic, an economic recession and rising tension connected to police violence. In these turbulent waters, Speaker Pelosi has masterfully captained the ship.

Pelosi is a legendary negotiator. Her work on the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement and the pandemic-relief CARES Act transformed both bills into legislation that works for everyday Americans, not just the wealthy and well-connected. Amid a constitutional crisis, she led the way through a historic impeachment in a solemn and sober fashion to reaffirm the long-standing principle that no one is above the law.

With an unyielding focus on results, Speaker Pelosi has brought together an ideologically diverse group of House Democrats to get things done.

Jeffries is a Democratic Congressman from New York and the Democratic caucus chair

JEAN-JACQUES MUYEMBE TAMFUM

Ebola fighter

BY DENIS MUKWEGE

Dr. Jean-Jacques Muyembe Tamfum is a fellow Congolese citizen and medical colleague for whom I have great respect. His fight against Ebola, from helping discover the virus in 1976 through the recent outbreak from 2018 to 2020, has greatly benefited the people of Congo as well as the entire world. Dr. Muyembe took exemplary action to battle misinformation and public mistrust of vaccine therapies, and pioneered new containment techniques for the devastating virus, thus strengthening the medical and scientific commitment of an entire generation. For five decades, he has been a model of excellence for humanity as he gives hope to the most vulnerable. Dr. Muyembe is among the exceptional men who advance science and truly make a difference.

We are confronted constantly with health challenges, but I am convinced that his expertise, combined with that of other international scientists, will continue to be of great help in overcoming new scourges that we face, like COVID-19. Even beyond the Democratic Republic of Congo, Dr. Muyembe's many contributions to medicine make him a treasure for the world. I applaud his work, dedication and perseverance.

Mukwege is a gynecologist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate

PELOSI: PHILIP MONTGOMERY FOR TIME; MUYEMBE: MATTHIEU ALEXANDRE—AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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SUNDAR PICHAI

Photograph by Paola Kudacki for TIME

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SUNDAR PICHAI

Meeting the moment

BY JAMIE DIMON

Taking the helm of an iconic American company and positioning it for long-term success in a way that reflects your values is no easy task. Sundar Pichai's uniquely American story—emigrating from India as a young adult and working his way to become CEO of a $1 trillion corporation—represents the best of what we aspire for our society. He used his natural gifts and strong work ethic to rise through the ranks of Google (now Alphabet) by leading many of their most successful products, such as Drive, Gmail and Maps, and officially took the reins of the company in December.

Google is a client, partner and competitor of ours, but we both recognize that our success is dependent on a healthy and inclusive economy that looks out for employees, customers and communities. Sundar, along with myself and 25 CEOs of New York City's other largest employers, recently committed to hiring 100,000 traditionally underserved New Yorkers by 2030, with a focus on low-income, Black, Latinx and Asian communities.

The challenges Sundar faces in his role are among the most important of our time—issues of innovation, privacy, regulation and competition. But his analytical, humble and inclusive leadership will position Google to meet the moment. These are traits the world could use a lot more of in these times.

Dimon is chairman and CEO of JPMorgan Chase

Tyler Perry

Empire builder

BY OPRAH WINFREY

There's no one else like him. In the entertainment business and in life. He's a true visionary. A trailblazer.

In 2005, I saw my first Tyler Perry play. I knew then he was special. I watched the audience laugh, cry and delight in seeing themselves reflected in the story onstage. Since then, he has directed and/or produced 22 feature films and produced more than 1,000 episodes of TV, maintaining a sincere connection to the audience he serves.

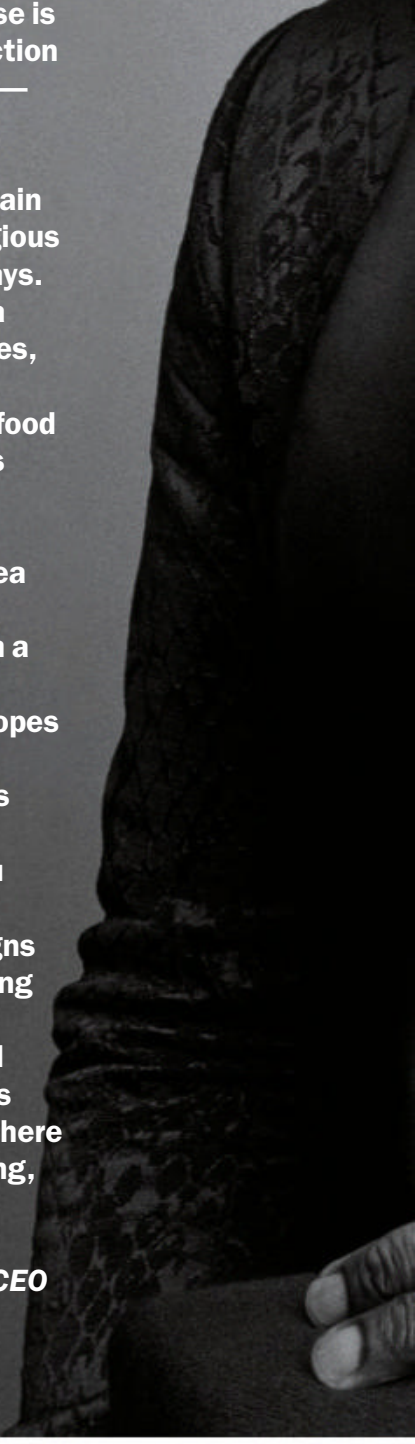
Last fall, Tyler made history, opening the largest privately owned motion-picture studio in the U.S., set on 330 acres. The former Confederate Army base is now a state-of-the-art production facility with 12 soundstages—each named after an iconic African-American figure. On Sept. 20, he made history again when he received the prestigious Governors Award at the Emmys.

Though he now sits atop a growing pinnacle of successes, he's always trying to help others. Whether addressing food insecurity and homelessness in his community, helping the families of George Floyd, Rayshard Brooks and Secoriea Turner, or donating millions, his giving always comes from a personal place.

In a recent essay on his hopes for the future of our country, he wrote he will explain to his son "that progress is made in small steps and even if you get exhausted to fight on, because there are always signs of daybreak before the morning comes."

He makes me proud. And I know wherever the ancestors abide, his mother Maxine is there and they are all smiling, saying, "Well done, son, well done."

Winfrey is the chairman and CEO of Oprah Winfrey Network



PERRY: TRUNK ARCHIVE; SCOTT: ILLUSTRATION BY GLUEKIT FOR TIME, GREG DOHERTY—PATRICK MCMULLAN/GETTY IMAGES

MACKENZIE SCOTT

Transforming philanthropy

BY MELINDA GATES

Last year, MacKenzie Scott pledged to give the majority of her wealth back to society—and to do so with urgency. "It will take time and effort and care," she wrote. "But I won't wait. And I will keep at it until the safe is empty."

Since then, she's given $1.7 billion to 116 organizations, including HBCUs and grassroots groups on the front lines of racial, gender and LGBTQ+ equity. She has made a point of prioritizing organizations led by people who have experienced firsthand the injustices they are seeking to end—and used her voice to call attention to their good work. For many of these organizations, MacKenzie's donation was the largest they had ever received.

If this is what MacKenzie's first year of giving looks like, I can't wait to see what comes next. Hers is a bold vision for philanthropy—and we'll be feeling her impact for a long time.

Gates is a co-founder of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

PHOTOGRAPH BY PAOLA KUDACKI

TIME 100

Robert F. Smith

Investing in equality

BY SAMUEL L. JACKSON AND LATANYA RICHARDSON JACKSON

Robert F. Smith is perhaps the savviest investor in America today. Through his firm, Vista Equity Partners, he manages $58 billion in more than 60 technology companies that employ tens of thousands of people worldwide. But even while recognizing his impressive record of success, his most important investments over the years have been in people.

Last year, Smith instantly granted hundreds of young Black men the ability to pursue their aspirations when he donated $34 million to the Morehouse College Class of 2019 so they could graduate debt-free. In addition to generous donations to his alma maters Cornell and Columbia universities, he also gave to the United Negro College Fund to increase educational opportunities for under-represented students of color. Earlier this year, he lobbied tirelessly to secure relief for thousands of minority-owned small businesses. Through his efforts, Congress earmarked $10 billion for institutions that support investment in lower-income urban and rural communities.

Robert F. Smith has keenly recognized that the most important way to use wealth and considerable resources is to reinvest in people and their communities, societies and futures. If we can perpetuate this priority, we just may have a shot at creating a better world for future generations.

Jackson is a producer and an Academy Award–nominated actor, and Richardson Jackson is a producer and a Tony Award–nominated actor. They are married

LISA NISHIMURA

Cultural mastermind

BY SAMIN NOSRAT

A week before my show *Salt Fat Acid Heat* premiered, I wrote an email to Lisa Nishimura with the subject line, "I love you my long-lost angel sister patron saint." At the time she greenlighted my show, she was head of documentary films and stand-up comedy at Netflix; now she oversees independent film as well. I thanked her for believing in a food show that explored different cultures, for never asking me to be anything but my flawed self, for giving me PR and marketing teams full of women of color. She wrote back, in part, "I believe it is the thing of dreams to be given permission as a viewer to dare to aspire."

In an industry and at a company driven largely by algorithms and by numbers, Lisa makes choices with her heart. When you log on to Netflix, you can tell which projects are hers because they foster empathy, compassion and understanding. She's why we have stand-up specials from Hannah Gadsby and Ali Wong. She is the reason the filmmakers who collaborated with the Obamas won an Oscar last year for a heartbreaking story about cultural and economic clashes in the U.S. And Lisa is also why we got to see *Wild Wild Country*, *Making a Murderer* and *Tiger King*, three of the most talked-about shows in Netflix's history—and a big reason the company has pulled ahead of the competition.

As the viewers who are stuck at home and have little to do besides watch Netflix, how lucky are we that there is a person like this who is making those choices?

Nosrat is a chef and the author of Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat: Mastering the Elements of Good Cooking

SMITH: ILLUSTRATION BY GLUEKIT FOR TIME; CHRISTIAN K. LEE—THE WASHINGTON POST/GETTY IMAGES; NISHIMURA: RYAN YOUNG; MAHOMES: JUSTIN EDMONDS—GETTY IMAGES

Patrick Mahomes

Future of the game

BY DEREK JETER

When Patrick Mahomes steps onto the football field, all eyes are drawn to him. It's not just that his combination of athleticism, creativity and vision is fun to watch. What his play really showcases is his love of the game and the commitment he's made to his teammates and coaches, and it's clear that is the true foundation of his success.

That joy and loyalty drive his work ethic and the hours of practice and studying he puts in to be the best he can be. It drives his ability to stay calm, steady and focused when challenges arise, whether in the middle of the biggest game or over the course of a long season. And most important, it drives his competitive fire and strong leadership qualities, which just continue to grow.

What his play showcases is his love of the game and his commitment to his teammates and coaches

There is a lot more promise in Patrick Mahomes' future than just on-field accolades. He already has started to build a legacy as one of the most impactful athletes of his generation, and I, for one, am excited to see what is next.

Jeter is CEO and part owner of the Miami Marlins

Gabrielle Union

Authentic influence

BY TARANA BURKE

Calling Gabrielle Union influential is accurate—but also doesn't quite capture what she does for the culture on a regular basis. She isn't just "influencing"; she is intentionally directing her attention, influence and resources to advance an agenda that deliberately celebrates the most marginalized among us, including Black women and girls and queer and trans folks. Her dedication to inclusivity was especially evident in November, when she was controversially fired as a judge on *America's Got Talent* after calling out multiple counts of racial insensitivity and a toxic work environment on the show. Many people in the spotlight wouldn't take the risk to speak out about such injustice.

Gab's commitment to authenticity is without compromise. Few people in her position are willing to admit when they are learning and growing, and to be transparent through that process like she does. And as a friend, I can attest to the fact that who she is in the public eye is who she is in private. It's that consistency that her fans and followers have come to not just love and rely on, but also be influenced by.

Burke is an activist who founded the #MeToo movement

Dwyane Wade

Unwavering champion

BY JOHN LEGEND

Dwyane Wade was one of the greatest shooting guards in NBA history—he was amazing at getting to the basket. But he has also always seen his role as greater than basketball. He has always been willing to spend his social capital on standing up for other people, using his platform and his philanthropy to move the conversation forward. He doesn't have to do these things. But he sees that he has a larger purpose, and that his athletic career put him in a position to make the world a better, safer and more loving place.

And with his support for his daughter Zaya, who is transgender, Dwyane has set a powerful example for parents and for society of how to be good allies to young people who are figuring out who they are. Every kid is going to be different in some way or another. Every kid is going to have their own individuality and their own interests and their own identity. He and Gabrielle don't love Zaya despite who she is. They love Zaya, and they celebrate who she is and they embrace her. He's modeling how parents can champion their kids, and fight for them, and help them become the best adult that they can be. I think that's really beautiful.

Legend is a Grammy-winning musician and activist

PHOTOGRAPH BY TEXAS ISAIAH FOR TIME

TIME 100

ZHONG NANSHAN

Voice of clarity

BY MARGARET CHAN

Dr. Zhong Nanshan, an experienced epidemiologist and physician, has been leading China's National Health Commission's expert panel for investigating the COVID-19 outbreak in the country. He has become the public face of China's efforts to halt the spread.

After visiting Wuhan, Dr. Zhong spoke out frankly about human-to-human transmission, and suggested evidence-based prevention and control measures to contain the disease. As a trusted doctor, he is very effective in calming public fear and anxiety with facts, and promoting community support for public-health measures.

Dr. Zhong has earned recognition for his dedication, integrity, academic and professional achievements, and for sharing China's successful control efforts and treatment plan with the international community.

On Sept. 8, President Xi Jinping awarded Dr. Zhong a Medal of the Republic, the highest state honor, for his great contribution to China's fight against the epidemic.

Chan is a former director-general of the World Health Organization and the inaugural dean of the Vanke School of Public Health at Tsinghua University in China

Eric Yuan

Zoomer in chief

BY KAI-FU LEE

Zoom is the defining company of the pandemic era. Eric Yuan's one-click videoconferencing software company will go down in history as the tool that kept the world turning. The transition from brand to verb is a hallmark for any product. Intense team meetings, joyful weddings and a classroom for millions of students: Zoom is the backbone for it all.

Some called Zoom the accidental beneficiary of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Zoom's success is no accident. The reason Zoom beat much bigger rivals was that it has a better user experience, with more dependable network connectivity—or in Eric's own words, "It just works." And as Zoom faced scrutiny and challenges, Eric responded to them with transparency, accepting full responsibility and committing to clear action.

Eric's inspiring yet humble leadership style—reportedly admired by 98% of his employees—has ensured Zoom would not only survive this year but flourish, winning our hearts along the way.

Lee is chairman and CEO of Sinovation Ventures

ZHONG: ILLUSTRATION BY GLUEKIT FOR TIME; MODESTO MATT—IMAGINECHINA; YUAN: ETHAN PINES—THE FORBES COLLECTION/CONTOUR/GETTY IMAGES; GEORGIEVA: BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI—AFP/GETTY IMAGES; FUNSHO: AFOLABI SOTUNDE—REUTERS

KRISTALINA GEORGIEVA

Pivotal financier

BY ROBERT B. ZOELLICK

Kristalina Georgieva is the first managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) from an emerging market country; she has seen firsthand the opportunities and perils of economic reforms. A decade ago, Georgieva surprised the Brussels cognoscenti, who had not expected a Bulgarian to become a star on the European Commission. Her years at the World Bank gave her a global perspective, and won her friends in Washington and experience as a country director working with Russia.

Georgieva was working as an environmental economist when we first met at the World Bank in 2007. She had superlative skills at solving problems, working with people and combining big-picture assessments with specific actions to accomplish results. As we expanded her role, outsiders recognized her leadership.

The IMF now straddles the fault line between multilateral finance and unilateral insularity. The world fights COVID-19 and struggles with an economic breakdown during a time of high debt, extraordinary monetary policies, costly trade fights and faltering faith in international cooperation. Such sharp shifts have defined the reputations of past IMF leaders, challenged to refocus staff and persuade governments during crises.

Georgieva has advanced plans to promote inclusive economic recovery by prioritizing health spending, fiscal stimuli and debt restructurings for the poorest economies. These are likely to be watershed years for the IMF and the world economy. Georgieva can point the way, but she needs help.

Zoellick is a former president of the World Bank

Tunji Funsho

Ending polio

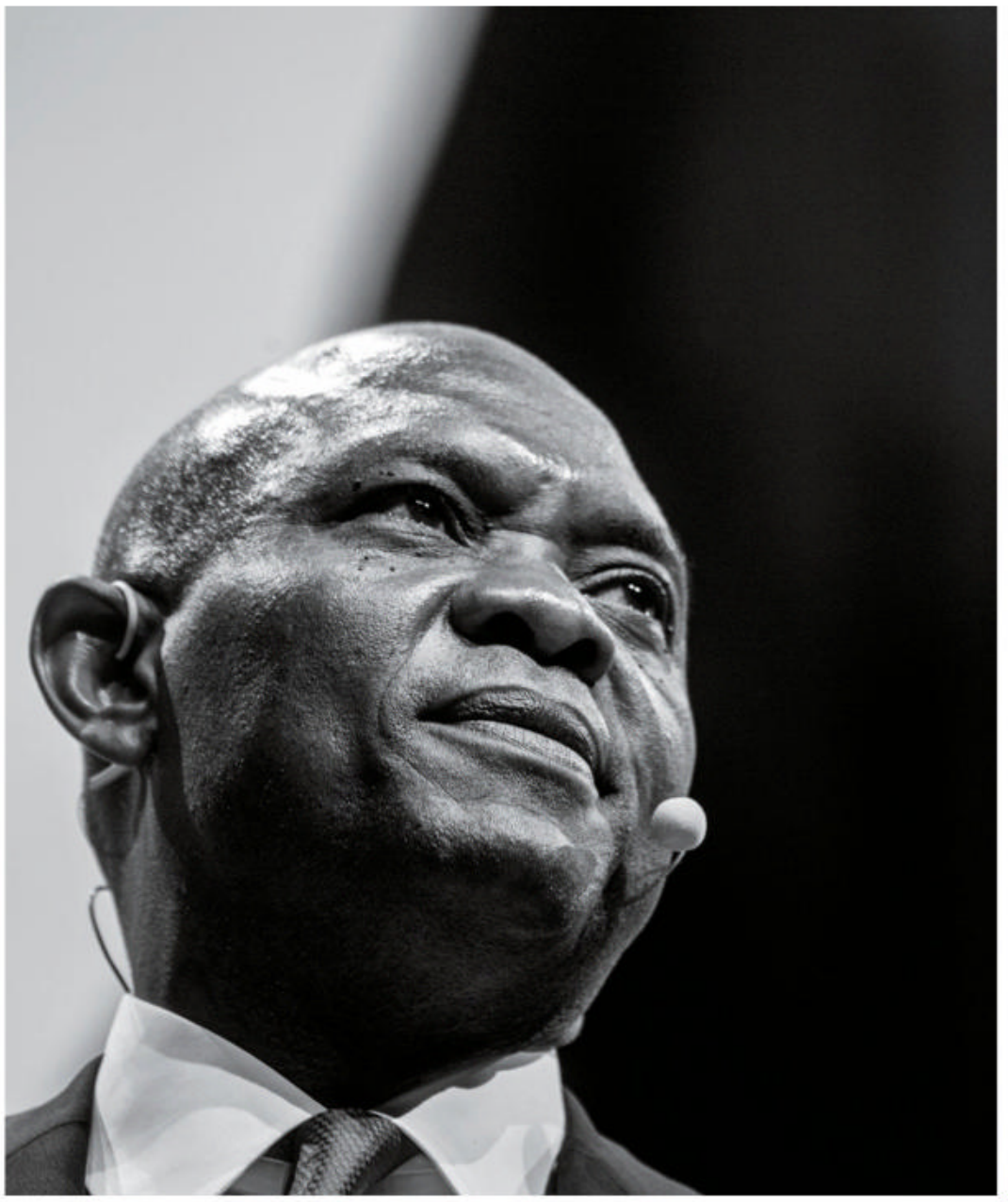
BY JEFFREY KLUGER

It's not often an entire continent eradicates a disease, but on Aug. 25, 2020, that happened when Nigeria was declared polio-free, clearing the virus from its last redoubt in all of Africa. The person who did more than any other to drive polio to continent-wide extinction was Dr. Tunji Funsho, a former cardiologist and now the chair of Rotary International's polio-eradication program in Nigeria.

Funsho could have retired years ago, but in 2013, with polio still paralyzing children across Nigeria, he decided to step up to lead the Rotarians' effort. Together with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the WHO, the CDC and UNICEF, Funsho and Rotary helped lead National Immunization Days, getting millions of doses of the polio vaccine to children in cities and villages around the nation. They also sponsored health-education initiatives at community centers, mosques and even birthday parties. This summer, the country marked four years without a case of wild polio, qualifying it for its polio-free certification, leaving Afghanistan and Pakistan as the only places in the world in which polio remains endemic.

"Certification will be an achievement," Funsho told TIME in 2018. "But we're not in a hurry for that. We're in a hurry to make sure no child is paralyzed." In Nigeria and in Africa as a whole, that moment has arrived.

Kluger is a TIME editor at large



TONY ELUMELU

Betting on Africa

BY ALIKO DANGOTE

A mere handshake says a lot about Tony Elumelu. His gritty grip underlines his charming, tenacious personality: a man who hardly backs down from any challenge. The same engaging qualities have propelled him from a modest beginning in Nigeria to becoming chair of the United Bank of Africa, and one of the most innovative and ambitious business leaders of his generation.

He is a leading proponent of "Africapitalism," a belief that Africa's private sector can and must play a leading role in the continent's development through long-term investments, as well as entrepreneurship and regional connectivity.

After deepening the financial market in Africa, he has found an equally important niche: giving a voice of hope to millions of youths across Africa. Tony has harnessed Africa's youth bulge to catalyze development and protect the future, committing to investing $5,000 each in 1,000 young entrepreneurs per year across 54 countries in Africa. Having come so far, Tony still forges on, striking a fine balance between personal satisfaction and societal impact.

Dangote is the president of Dangote Industries Ltd.

Daniel Zhang

Building on success

BY JOE TSAI

When I first met Daniel Zhang on a rainy day in 2007, he was CFO of a successful publicly traded technology company, and Alibaba was searching for a model to generate revenues for our consumer marketplace, Taobao. I wondered why he would be interested in a finance job with us. More than a decade later, Daniel would take over from Jack Ma as executive chairman of Alibaba.

Daniel turned the impossible job of succeeding an iconic founder into an art. He transformed an obscure holiday in China—Singles' Day—into the world's largest online-shopping festival, generating a record $38.4 billion in gross merchandise volume in 2019. He incubated the world's first multichannel supermarket for consumers to shop on their smartphones from home as well as in stores, and hid the project from Jack until its success couldn't be a secret anymore. Very few can keep up with him in intellect and energy, but most will point to his humility and perseverance as hallmarks of his leadership.

Quietly, Daniel led Alibaba through the height of the pandemic in China with courage and creativity. He kept supply chains running, supported small businesses and even brought AI solutions to hospitals for COVID-19 diagnosis. In a year in which global economies have been massively disrupted, were we looking for a steady pair of hands or innovation-led excitement? In Daniel Zhang, we got both.

Tsai is co-founder and executive vice chairman of Alibaba Group

ELUMELU: RGA/REA/REDUX; ZHANG: ILLUSTRATION BY GLUEKIT FOR TIME; JASON ALDEN—BLOOMBERG/GETTY IMAGES; REDSTONE: JAMEL TOPPIN—THE FORBES COLLECTION/CONTOUR/GETTY IMAGES

Shari Redstone

Hollywood tycoon

BY ARIANNA HUFFINGTON

It's like a Hollywood story: a woman takes over from her father to run the family business her grandfather helped build, and along the way, she confronts—and dispatches—challenge after challenge as she ultimately proves the doubters wrong. Over the past few years, Shari Redstone, now the chairperson of ViacomCBS, ended more than a decade of legal wrangling over who would succeed her father Sumner Redstone, who died this August at the age of 97, at the helm of the family's sprawling media empire, which includes Viacom, CBS, Paramount Pictures and many other divisions.

She's proved herself every bit as tough and shrewd a businessperson as her extraordinary father, leading the $12 billion merger of CBS and Viacom last year. But she's also done it her own way—with grace and humanity, proving that strength is not incompatible with empathy and warmth. Every time I see Shari, we spend more time talking about her grandchildren than we do about business (which includes her role as an investor in Thrive Global).

She's proved herself every bit as tough and shrewd a businessperson as her extraordinary father . . . But she's also done it her own way

Certainly she has more challenges ahead. She's taken over at a time of profound disruption in the entertainment and media industries. But with the succession battles behind her, she's busy with plans to expand into new technologies, digital streaming and international markets as arguably the most powerful woman in Hollywood. Shari is a true trailblazer, and whatever she does next, it will be a sequel well worth watching.

Huffington is founder and CEO of Thrive Global

GENERAL CHARLES Q. BROWN JR.

Breaking barriers

BY HEATHER WILSON

On Aug. 6, the day he made history by becoming the nation's first Black chief of a military service, General Charles "CQ" Brown Jr. made sure that proper attention was given to service members who never got the chance for career advancement simply because of the color of their skin. "It is due to their trials and tribulations in breaking barriers that I can address you today as the Air Force chief of staff," Brown said after being sworn in. The smiles on the faces of the surviving members of the Tuskegee Airmen, an all-Black unit of fighter pilots in World War II, were matched only by those of the 19-year-olds who now know the sky's not the limit in today's Air Force.

He is a respected warfighter who will serve America well. As the former commander of Pacific Air Forces, he's highly qualified to deter China and reassure allies in the Indo-Pacific. The suppression of ISIS militants in Iraq and Syria was largely accomplished by local forces on the ground, enabled by air power CQ helped orchestrate.

CQ has opened doors throughout his career and made sure that they have stayed open for those who follow.

Meeting the challenges of this time will require visionary leadership. CQ has become a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff through competence and character. It's a model worth following.

Wilson is president of the University of Texas at El Paso and a former Secretary of the Air Force

Lewis Hamilton

Driving change

BY BUBBA WALLACE

Lewis Hamilton is someone I've idolized. He's poised to win his seventh Formula One championship this season, tying Michael Schumacher's record. Seven is a magic number in racing. Dale Earnhardt Sr., Jimmie Johnson and Richard Petty have each won seven NASCAR season titles. Lewis, 35, is young enough to keep winning championships and setting new all-time records.

I'm the only Black driver in NASCAR's top level. So Lewis' example—as the lone Black F1 driver—is particularly meaningful for me. He shows we're out there doing it. To see him conquering the track damn near every weekend, it motivates me to try to do the same.

His activism has also moved the world. Lewis has brought international attention

to the Black Lives Matter movement, through his advocacy on social media and at F1 events. Lewis' mental preparation, his aura, his ability to capitalize on every opportunity to use his platform to drive out racism are more than just a model for race-car drivers and other athletes. He's an inspiration for everyone.

Wallace is a driver in the NASCAR Cup Series circuit

Claire Babineaux-Fontenot

Food-bank hero

BY RACHAEL RAY

I remember the first time I got a bank card, the first time I was able to swipe a card for groceries instead of having to pay cash or check. I broke out in a nervous sweat because I didn't know if I had enough money in my account to cover the items I had picked out, imagining the embarrassment if I had to choose what to keep or put back. I think of the Americans—as many as 54 million—dealing with food insecurity this year. These are our friends, colleagues, neighbors and children (the number of kids facing hunger could rise to 18 million this year) for whom Feeding America works tirelessly to provide food at food banks across the country, thanks to its leader Claire Babineaux-Fontenot.

Claire responded rapidly to meet increased need when hunger surged because of the coronavirus pandemic and economic downturn this spring. My cooking and kids' initiatives, the Yum-o! Organization and the Rachael Ray Foundation, have been longtime partners of Feeding America, and we know firsthand all of the work they do on the front lines.

Without Claire, millions of people would lose access to food, and food-pantry lines would grow longer and longer. Claire feeds the world, and makes it a better place.

Ray is a chef and Emmy Award–winning television personality

GWYNNE SHOTWELL

A new frontier

BY KATHRYN SULLIVAN

Gwynne Shotwell is living proof that you don't need a space suit to be a space pioneer. Itching to build something after a decade's work in the policy and analytical segments of the space sector, she jumped into the fledgling commercial space arena, becoming one of SpaceX's earliest employees in 2002. As vice president for business development, Shotwell built the Falcon manifest to more than 70 launches, together valuing more than $10 billion.

She rose swiftly to her current role of president and chief operating officer, and under her guidance, SpaceX became the first commercial company to launch, orbit and recover a spacecraft, and the first to launch and recover astronauts.

She is not only a quintessential engineer with a passion to build things, but also a "people engineer" who thrives on working with colleagues and customers. Gwynne Shotwell is helping to launch our future, and I can't wait to see what she does next.

Sullivan is a former NASA astronaut

BROWN: KEVIN DIETSCH—POOL/AP; HAMILTON: BRYN LENNON—GETTY IMAGES; BABINEAUX-FONTENOT: SARAH A. MILLER—TYLER MORNING TELEGRAPH; SHOTWELL: ILLUSTRATION BY GLUEKIT FOR TIME, AMANDA EDWARDS—WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES

TIME 100

Jerome Powell

Backstopping the economy

BY TIMOTHY GEITHNER

Jerome "Jay" Powell became chairman of the Federal Reserve in 2018, in what seemed likely to be a peaceful period in central banking. The U.S. economy was in the ninth year of expansion, with unemployment and inflation low, and a seemingly stable financial system. For a time, his greatest challenge seemed to be how to preserve the independence of the Fed from a President eager to reassert political control over monetary policy. He handled that threat with characteristic calm and grace—and then led the Fed's stunningly powerful response to the existential threat of the pandemic with great personal strength. He has kept the Fed an island of competence in the sea of incompetence that is the U.S. political system, helping soften the damage to the economy from a staggering public-health failure. His creative use of the Fed's powers—such as backstopping the entire corporate credit market—helped protect the foundations of the global financial system. In doing all this, perhaps most important, Jay Powell has demonstrated to Americans the value of integrity, experience and expertise in public policy, and reminded the world of what the U.S. can achieve when it puts its heart into it.

Geithner was the 75th U.S. Treasury Secretary and is the president of Warburg Pincus

Greg Berlanti

Mr. Television

BY JENNIFER GARNER

The first time Greg Berlanti and I sat down to speak about his 2018 coming-of-age film, *Love, Simon,* we dreamed together about a mother's best-case-scenario response to her child's coming out.

With our conversation as a jumping-off point, Greg wrote just about the most beautiful scene I had ever read. As a matter of fact, I loved everything about his script—it was fresh and brave, with a teen protagonist who just happened to be gay. In other words, exactly what the world needed.

Greg collaborates joyously, without ego. He has a clear vision, but receives feedback with vulnerability and respect. His well of creativity and excellent leadership skills have paid off—he is now the most prolific showrunner on TV, with a record 18 series orders in 2019. His warmth, integrity and goodness are revealed in each one of them.

Love, Simon follows me around in the happiest way. More times than I can count, strangers have felt moved to talk to me about the film and have cited my scene with Nick Robinson as a source of comfort and wisdom in their own journeys.

Thank you, Greg, for giving me the awesome responsibility of being that mom to teenagers and parents everywhere. I know that your husband, your son, your daughter and your sweet angel mom are proud of you, and just for the record—if I may be so bold—I am proud of you too.

Garner is an Emmy Award–nominated actor

POWELL: ILLUSTRATION BY GLUEKIT FOR TIME, ANDREW HARRER—BLOOMBERG/GETTY IMAGES; BERLANTI: RYAN PFLUGER FOR TIME

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MEGAN THEE STALLION

Photograph by Dana Scruggs for TIME

TIME 100

MEGAN THEE STALLION

Tenacious talent

BY TARAJI P. HENSON

I remember hearing Megan Thee Stallion on one of those famous DJ radio shows a few years ago. She rode the beat like I'd never heard anybody ride the beat in a long time—and I'm a hip-hop head. There was something about this woman. Once you discover her, you become a fan. I don't like to put the stigma of the word *strong* on Black women because I think it dehumanizes us, but she has strength—strength through vulnerability. She's lost much of her family—her mother, her father, her grandmother—yet she is the epitome of tenacity, of pulling herself up by her bootstraps. She was shot this summer, and still people tried to tear her down. But she's out here still loving and being sweet. It's invigorating to see her become a platinum-selling artist with the viral hit "Hot Girl Summer" and multiple No. 1 songs in the past year, "Savage" and "WAP." But you would be a fool to think that's all there is to her. She's deep. She's enrolled in college. She's an entertainer. She's a free spirit; I see that in her. The industry might try to pigeonhole her in this rap game, but she's got a plan that's much bigger. And we got her. I just want her to keep winning.

Henson is an Academy Award–nominated actor

JULIE K. BROWN

Intrepid reporter

BY RONAN FARROW

Before Miami *Herald* investigative reporter Julie K. Brown's explosive reporting on the late sex offender and financier Jeffrey Epstein in 2018, plenty of outlets had failed to grasp the story's ongoing significance. Epstein had been convicted and some of the allegations against him disclosed. Many reporters considered Epstein's connections to figures like Bill Clinton and Donald Trump a promising story, and Epstein himself an old one. But Julie's relentless reporting proved that Epstein's accusers deserved to be heard more fully and his crimes to be exposed more thoroughly. Julie placed empathy over headline chasing, with seismic impact.

Raised by a single mother who struggled to make ends

meet, Julie set out on her own at age 16 to work odd jobs and save up for college. She's translated those experiences into attentiveness to voices that need amplifying, publishing stories that have confronted powerful interests and spurred reforms. When news broke last year about MIT's fundraising relationship with Epstein, she tweeted an animated GIF of a Muppet treading water before getting carried away by a flood, with the caption, "Me trying to keep up with the Jeffrey Epstein story." But the truth is, all of us in journalism are trying to keep up with Julie.

In her dogged pursuit of the Epstein story, Brown placed empathy over headline chasing, with seismic impact

Farrow is a Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist and author

BROWN: MARY BETH KOETH; KATEAB: ILLUSTRATION BY GLUEKIT FOR TIME, DAVID FISHER—SHUTTERSTOCK

Waad al-Kateab

Witness to war

BY RIZ AHMED

Our understanding of war is historically mediated through soldiers and war reporters; it's dominated by battle scenes and colored in khaki. It is often informed by the stories of men, told by men.

With her heart-stopping footage from the last hospital in east Aleppo, which dominated news platforms, and her multi-award-winning film *For Sama,* Waad al-Kateab told us the story of the Syrian war through the eyes of a new mother. She told a story whose heroes are ordinary people risking everything to live free from tyranny: doctors working under fire to save others, teachers educating children in underground classrooms as bombs rain down outside. A story of extreme brutality but also of endless hope.

In a year when film awards were, once again, criticized for their lack of diversity, it was incredible to see Waad, a Muslim refugee woman, walk the red carpet at the Oscars alongside her young daughter, wearing a gown embroidered with a poem in Arabic that read, "We dared to dream and we will not regret dignity."

I am in awe of her refusal to give up that dream.

Ahmed is an Emmy Award–winning actor

Giannis Antetokounmpo

Electrifying athlete

BY KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR

Paul Simon sang that "every generation throws a hero up the pop charts." The same is true in sports. Every generation finds an athlete who embodies the qualities we all wish we had: dedication, focus, exceptional athleticism and grace under pressure.

Giannis Antetokounmpo, who just won a second straight NBA MVP award, has all that and more. To watch him play is to see not just what is, but also what is possible. There is some mystical quality that quickens a fan's heart when they see that person walk onto the court. The true sports hero makes our bones vibrate and flesh ripple in anticipation of witnessing greatness.

I have no doubt that Giannis will extend the NBA records he holds—he already has the highest single-season Player Efficiency Rating, which combines all of a player's stats, in NBA history—possibly beyond the reach of future generations. But a sports hero is more than records. Giannis sets an example by standing up for what he believes in. After leading the Milwaukee Bucks to the playoffs, he and his team protested the police shooting of Jacob Blake in their home state by refusing to play, sparking a wave of strikes and postponements throughout the NBA. I once asked Giannis what his name meant, and he told me "the crown has arrived." It certainly has.

Abdul-Jabbar is a six-time NBA champion and league Most Valuable Player

TOMI ADEYEMI

Worldmaker

BY JOHN BOYEGA

When someone told me about Tomi Adeyemi's *Children of Blood and Bone,* describing it as a cross between Harry Potter, the Chronicles of Narnia and Yoruba gods, I was shocked. It sounded like the best combination ever: How had I not heard of it? I read it, then I read it again, then I listened to the audiobook. I was being introduced to a world I couldn't have imagined before. The characters were larger than life but with very human problems and issues. And the novel spoke to my self-identity and culture as a Nigerian, in its social commentary and in its depiction of both magic and oppression.

It's so important to have representation within books like this. In school, I realized that only when my teacher considered my point of view did learning become easier. When my kids are growing up, they're going to have these new classic heroes from an environment they know.

Tomi is the god of ideas. She's inspiring a lot of young people to write. She creates the very world that we as actors get to play in. And the big-screen adaptation will hire a lot of people and bring more representation to our industry—all that comes directly from Tomi's imagination. She is going to be very powerful when it comes to bringing stories and ideas to the forefront.

I would absolutely drop everything to be in the film. If I missed the opportunity to be a part of it, it would be like missing history.

Boyega is an actor who stars in the upcoming series Small Axe *on Amazon*

ANTETOKOUNMPO: NICOLAS MESSYASZ—SIPA/AP

PHOTOGRAPH BY DJENEBA ADUAYOM FOR TIME

ABUBACARR TAMBADOU

Pursuer of justice

BY SAMANTHA POWER

Over the past four years, Myanmar's security forces have carried out savage "clearance operations"—forced displacements, summary executions and sexual violence—against the Rohingya community. In response, China has covered for its neighbor, while Western governments have issued only half-hearted condemnations. By contrast, Abubacarr Tambadou, 47, a former prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and, until this past summer, Justice Minister in Gambia, was not cowed. Moved by his 2018 visit to a refugee camp in Bangladesh where he heard the haunting testimonies of Rohingya survivors, Tambadou and his government brought a case before the International Court of Justice, accusing Myanmar of perpetrating genocide. In January 2020 they won an extraordinary initial ruling against Myanmar and its leader (and courtroom defender) Aung San Suu Kyi, as the judges ordered that Myanmar "take all measures within its power" to stop violent attacks against the Rohingya while the court continues to investigate the country's past actions.

Why would his country—the smallest in mainland Africa—take action on mass atrocities on the other side of the world when others looked away? Partly, it's personal. Gambia was ruled by a brutal dictator for two decades, and Tambadou wishes outsiders had exerted more pressure during those dark days. But mainly, he told PRI, because it is right: "International law is not the exclusive preserve of the rich and powerful countries … you do not have to have military power or economic power to stand for justice, to stand for what is right. We are doing this in the name of humanity."

Power is a former U.S. ambassador to the U.N. and author of The Education of an Idealist: A Memoir

Rebecca Gomperts

Expanding access

BY CECILE RICHARDS

It seems logical, during a pandemic, for elected officials to focus on expanding access to health care. Instead, some seized the opportunity to try to ban abortion, responding to one public-health emergency by creating another.

Enter Dutch physician and activist Rebecca Gomperts, one of the bravest people I know. She's spent her career expanding abortion access around the world, using everything from sea voyages to drones to the Internet to reach the people who count on her—especially those in rural, restricted and dangerous areas. In 2019, Gomperts sued the FDA for the ability to continue providing early, safe abortion remotely in the form of pills through her organization, Aid Access, after the agency allegedly attempted to block her distribution. Now, with barriers to abortion—cost, risk of COVID-19, childcare and politics, to name a few—more daunting than ever, Gomperts' work is especially urgent. This spring, Aid Access saw a spike in requests across the U.S. as demand for remote medical care increased. In this moment of fear and uncertainty, Gomperts is a beacon of hope, standing up for the principle that safe abortion is a human right.

Richards is the co-founder of Supermajority and a former president of Planned Parenthood

TAMBADOU: YAGAZIE EMEZI—THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX; GOMPERTS: ILLUSTRATION BY GLUEKIT FOR TIME, JITSKE SCHOLS; SHI: JOHANNES EISELE—AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Shi Zhengli

Tracking the virus

BY CARL ZIMMER

In January, Shi Zhengli led one of the first scientific teams that isolated SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that went on to ravage the world. The virus was new to science, but Shi could see where it had come from: bats. Sixteen years of virus hunting had prepared her for that epiphany.

In 2003, another coronavirus unleashed the SARS epidemic. To find its origin, Shi and her colleagues traveled to caves in southwestern China. There, they found bats infected with SARS-like viruses. Over the subsequent years, Shi—a virologist at the Wuhan Institute of Virology—has gone spelunking into more caves and found many more bat coronaviruses. In 2015, Shi and her colleagues warned that it was just a matter of time before another bat coronavirus spilled over the species barrier and wreaked havoc. Five years later, SARS-CoV-2 proved her right.

Shi's scientific foresight is exactly what we need if we want to stop more coronaviruses from devastating humanity

The Trump Administration has attacked Shi's institute, insinuating that it is responsible for the pandemic. The charge is not just baseless but dangerous. Shi's scientific accomplishments and foresight are exactly what we need if we want to stop more coronaviruses from devastating humanity in the years to come.

Zimmer is the author of A Planet of Viruses

Zhang Yongzhen

COVID-19 genome mapper

BY PARDIS SABETI

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a global disaster—but it could have been much worse. The saving grace was Zhang Yongzhen, who led a team that published the first SARS-CoV-2 genome just days after the first cluster of cases emerged and likely within weeks of its jump into humans. That data allowed scientists around the world to begin developing tests for detecting the virus as early as January; as a result, China and other countries steadily closed the gap between infection and diagnosis, helping to flatten the curve and saving countless lives in the process.

The Zhang team's unprecedented speed was made possible by the extraordinary disease-monitoring network they had built to detect emerging flu strains and coronaviruses. Their work envisions what is possible with a collaborative, connected public-health collective, and illuminates what gaps still remain. It is now up to the global community to realize this potential, to stop COVID-19 and the next pandemic before it has a chance to start.

Sabeti is a professor at Harvard University and a member of the Broad Institute; in 2014, she led a team that sequenced the Ebola virus

CECILIA MARTINEZ

Advocating for environmental justice

BY CORY BOOKER

As a leader in everything from international projects to grassroots organizing, Cecilia Martinez has dedicated her impressive career to a moral imperative: the pursuit of environmental justice and the inclusion of equity and justice in environmental policy.

Martinez has helped raise up the voices of communities that have been disproportionately harmed by toxic pollution and has advocated fiercely for policies to protect them. As I started to work on comprehensive environmental-justice legislation in the Senate, I turned to Martinez to provide critical insight on the cumulative impacts of pollution—when communities are subjected to many different toxins at once—that disproportionately harm communities of color, low-income communities and Indigenous communities.

Martinez's indispensable work on behalf of communities that have long suffered from the burden of pollution has demonstrated that the fight for environmental justice is ultimately a movement for human dignity and for our collective future.

It is my hope that we summon the collective will to follow her lead.

Booker is a Democratic Senator from New Jersey

ZHANG: RONGHUI CHEN FOR TIME; MARTINEZ: ILLUSTRATION BY GLUEKIT FOR TIME, COURTESY CECILIA MARTINEZ

Chase Strangio

Legal trailblazer

BY LAVERNE COX

I have never felt such a crystal-clear sense of purpose as I did when I took Chase Strangio as my guest to the 2019 Emmys. Our job that night was to use the power and profile of the Emmys red carpet to let the country know about what Chase called the most important case for LGBTQ+ civil rights in his lifetime.

This year, Chase, the deputy director for transgender justice at the ACLU, was part of the legal team representing Aimee Stephens, the plaintiff in the very first case involving transgender civil rights to be heard by the Supreme Court of the United States. The landmark 6-3 decision ruled that firing someone from their job because of their sexual orientation or gender identity is sex discrimination and a violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This is a monumental decision from the high court and has legal implications far beyond employment. Chase's expertise as a trans person himself was integral in crafting the arguments that won the case, and in painting the beautiful humanity of trans people for the court.

Chase's vital legal work and his selfless activism on behalf of LGBTQ+ folks has been essential in shaping my own activism. When I haven't had the language to explain what was at stake, the consequences and implications of discrimination, I have turned to Chase's writings, tweets and interviews. I have had the privilege of being able to call or email him. He picks up the phone. He writes back. Chase has the fortitude to speak with clarity on the messy contradictions and limitations of our legal system, while simultaneously wielding the powers of that system to help the most vulnerable. Now he is being heralded as the lawyer behind the biggest LGBTQ+ legal victory in history. I couldn't be prouder to call him my friend.

Cox is an Emmy Award–nominated actor

PHOTOGRAPH BY NAIMA GREEN FOR TIME

COURTESY NASA

CHRISTINA KOCH AND JESSICA MEIR

Reaching new heights

BY MAE JEMISON

In October 2019, Christina Koch and Jessica Meir exited the International Space Station and replaced a controller regulating the batteries that store the station's solar power. But the two astronauts accomplished much more than fixing the space station. They completed the first all-female spacewalk, shifting who we see as strong, brave, competent, and who's on the team pushing the boundaries of exploration.

Yes, as Koch and Meir said, they were just doing their jobs. All astronauts say that, because being in space is our job. Yet two women executing intellectually and physically demanding work in one of the most challenging circumstances in which humans operate—orbital altitude of 250 miles, velocity of 17,500 m.p.h.—is an important event. Not because these women proved what we, women, could do; that was never in doubt. Rather because the whole world saw it, including the gatekeepers (frequently men) who determine who has access to these opportunities.

Koch and Meir executed the 7-hr. 17-min. spacewalk wearing space suits designed primarily in the 1970s, when the U.S. had flown no women astronauts and women were just 16% of NASA's workforce, compared with 34% today. Men's physiology, perspectives, values, measurements, comfort and ambitions have mostly been the default template for designing major human endeavors. I believe that Koch and Meir, by their sheer skill and execution, shift us closer to a template based on intelligence, agility, capability, integrity, courage and excellence.

Jemison, a former NASA astronaut, was the first African-American woman in space

GABRIELA CÁMARA
Culinary activist

BY JOSÉ ANDRÉS

Gabriela Cámara is one of those chefs who is more than a chef—she is a Renaissance woman on the front lines of our industry, fearlessly forging a path toward the more perfect society she envisions.

Through her visionary career, Gabriela has become one of Mexico's leading culinary diplomats, both in spirit and in practice. Not only does she run two of the most iconic kitchens on the continent—Contramar in Mexico City and Cala in San Francisco—offering the very best of her cultural heritage, she is also an adviser to the Mexican President, showing by example how food can have an impact far beyond the walls of a restaurant kitchen.

People ask me about the role of chefs in the 21st century, and I would look no further than Gabriela for the answer. She leads from the front at her restaurants, putting social justice first and advocating for those whose voices are too often marginalized. She walks the walk.

Andrés is a chef and the founder of World Central Kitchen

PHOTOGRAPH BY ALANNA HALE

Ravindra Gupta

Hope for a cure

BY ADAM CASTILLEJO

My improbable journey to a functional HIV cure, led by Professor Ravindra Gupta, commenced during a very tempestuous period of my life. But when I was first introduced to Gupta, I was pleasantly surprised. He was thoughtful and compassionate, and his accomplishments—now including oversight of the stem-cell treatments I received from a donor with a rare gene mutation, which led to my remission—clearly earned him respect and admiration from his colleagues in the HIV research community. Now he has mine, as well.

Through the years, our partnership has developed and strengthened as Gupta has shared his knowledge and his enthusiasm to find a feasible cure for everyone. He has championed me and empowered me to become an ambassador of hope to millions of people living with HIV around the world.

In recognition of his work, last year the University of Cambridge appointed him professor of clinical microbiology at the Cambridge Institute of Therapeutic Immunology and Infectious Disease. I'm so fortunate and humbled to know him, and to see how his dedication can conquer this disease.

Castillejo is known as the London Patient, the second person ever to be functionally cured of HIV

CÁMARA: THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX; GUPTA: ILLUSTRATION BY GLUEKIT FOR TIME, JANE STOCKDALE—THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX; LAW: CHAN LONG HEI—BLOOMBERG/GETTY IMAGES

Nathan Law

Freedom fighter

BY CHRIS PATTEN

Nathan Law, a pro-democracy activist now driven into exile, is one of the leaders of the generation of young people in Hong Kong who oppose the crushing by Beijing of the rule of law and the liberties of an open society in Hong Kong. Xi Jinping and his apparatchiks have broken the promises made to Hong Kong about liberty and local autonomy. They see the values that have made Hong Kong such a glittering success story in Asia as an existential threat.

Nathan is the son of a working-class family who became the youngest lawmaker elected to the city legislature. He would not claim any pre-eminent status as a campaigner for democracy and freedom. He is simply a typically brave representative of a generation whose spirit the Communist Party wants to stamp out. But you cannot cage the idea of freedom. Like his colleague Joshua Wong, Nathan follows in the footsteps of people like Martin Lee, Margaret Ng, Jimmy Lai and Cardinal Joseph Zen, who risk their freedom for their people's democratic rights. We must all continue to speak up and stand up for Nathan Law and for those who fight for freedom in Hong Kong.

Patten is chancellor of the University of Oxford and was the last British governor of Hong Kong

TIME 100

Lauren Gardner

Democratizing data

BY LEANA WEN

Every morning, the first website I consult is the Johns Hopkins University (JHU) COVID-19 dashboard. It is *the* go-to resource to track the global pandemic. Public-health authorities use it to guide policies, with the dashboard featured prominently in emergency operation centers around the world. Researchers depend on it for their analysis and modeling. Virtually every news organization uses the JHU data as the basis for their reporting.

This indispensable resource was the brainchild of Lauren Gardner, an associate professor of engineering at JHU. When she and her graduate student Ensheng Dong saw a lack of reliable data tracking around the novel coronavirus, they decided to develop a real-time dashboard themselves—in one day. It went online on Jan. 22, and by early March, it was accessed more than a billion times per day.

In the face of an existential threat, Lauren took action. She didn't wait for others—she stepped up first. She democratized data and filled a void of public-health leadership. Lives will be saved because of her proactive work.

Wen is an emergency physician and a public-health professor

TOURMALINE

Inspiring a generation

BY JANET MOCK

I first met filmmaker and activist Tourmaline in 2012 through her Tumblr "The Spirit Was …," a visual archive centering folks who had been left out of the whitewashed historical narrative of the LGBTQ+ movement. Because of Tourmaline's fastidious work digitizing archival materials that might otherwise have been lost to time, I got to actually watch videos, read newspaper clippings, and view never-before-seen photographs of trans icons Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera. Because of Tourmaline, my particular experience as a Black trans woman also speaking uncomfortable truths was validated and affirmed.

She wielded us with actual proof of our collective existence, our lives and our contributions. Tourmaline gave us evidence of our lineage, and in a culture where histories of marginalized people—particularly Black trans and queer people—aren't preserved in mainstream storytelling, Tourmaline is a force showing us to ourselves, proving to anyone paying attention that trans people have always been here.

Tourmaline continues to create reflections of our community in her most recent short film, *Salacia,* which centers Mary Jones, a Black trans outlaw living in the free Black community Seneca Village in the 1830s. This summer, the film was added to the Museum of Modern Art's permanent collection. Because of Tourmaline, Black trans women exist in a mainstream art institution, where thousands will witness us taking up space, centered in the frame as our own heroes. Tourmaline is a beacon in the foreboding darkness, lighting a pathway toward better tomorrows.

Mock is a writer, director and Emmy Award–nominated producer

GARDNER: ILLUSTRATION BY GLUEKIT FOR TIME. SAMUEL CORUM—GETTY IMAGES; TOURMALINE: TEXAS ISAIAH; ITO: KYODO/REUTERS

Shiori Ito

Silence breaker

BY CHIZUKO UENO

Shiori Ito has forever changed life for Japanese women with her brave accusation of sexual violence against her harasser. Though the accused man, close to political power, escaped criminal prosecution, Ito won a civil suit against him in December.

Her victory was widely shared by supporters with great joy. She has pushed other women to promote the #MeToo movement in Japan and sparked the national flower demonstration, a protest movement against sexual violence, where women simply gather together standing with flowers, telling their stories of victimization.

Japanese society is finally refusing to tolerate sexual violence

The movements brought forth other cases of sexual assault by a high-ranking bureaucrat and a well-known human-rights journalist. They have also led to activism to reform criminal law, and in June, the government announced a three-year plan to reduce sexual violence in the country. Japanese society is finally refusing to tolerate sexual violence.

Ueno is a sociologist and chief director of the Women's Action Network

TIME 100

Camilla Rothe

Raising the alarm

BY ERIC TOPOL

What has been called the Achilles heel of fighting the pandemic is that such a large proportion—an estimated 30% to 40%—of people with infections do not have symptoms but are fully capable of spreading COVID-19. Back in January, it was the astute observation of Dr. Camilla Rothe, an infectious-disease specialist in Munich, that led her team to be one of the first to document an asymptomatic infection. Her published report of symptomless spreading was first met with disbelief, denial and disparagement, but ultimately was confirmed in dozens of patient cohorts to be absolutely true and now is widely accepted.

Her discovery has saved countless lives, and if only we all had listened to Dr. Rothe earlier, more spread could have been prevented.

Topol, M.D., is a professor of molecular medicine at Scripps Research and the editor in chief of Medscape

ROTHE: LAETITIA VANCON—THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX; MOORE: ILLUSTRATION BY GLUEKIT FOR TIME; OMAR VEGA—INVISION/AP

MAYA MOORE

Dedicated activist

BY BRYAN STEVENSON

With multiple WNBA championships, Olympic gold medals and back-to-back collegiate national titles, Maya Moore is "the greatest winner in the history of women's basketball," as *Sports Illustrated* put it. So last year, when she decided to forgo playing professional basketball at the prime of her career to advocate for reform of the U.S. criminal-justice system, many were stunned.

Moore has brought the same skill and determination that has made her one of the best basketball players in the world to her advocacy. This summer, she once again prevailed, helping to win the release of Jonathan Irons, who had spent more than 20 years in prison after being wrongly convicted. In the U.S. criminal-justice system—which treats you better if you are rich and guilty than if you are poor and innocent—that is a remarkable achievement. And Moore and Irons are now happily married.

With so much angst, pain, sorrow and dismay in our nation, many are asking what we should require from our celebrated athletes, entertainers and influencers. On the day of Irons' release, Moore—who was there to greet him—evoked a powerful line from scripture: DO JUSTICE, LOVE MERCY, WALK HUMBLY.

Stevenson is the founder of the Equal Justice Initiative and author of Just Mercy

Ibram X. Kendi

Defining a movement

BY REV. AL SHARPTON

As we march to dramatize the assaults on Black men and women by law enforcement, we also turn to Ibram X. Kendi for his historical insight and deep understanding of the ongoing fight for social justice and civil rights in this country.

The battle to free our nation from its racist past, as Kendi brilliantly notes in his book *Stamped From the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America,* is hardly new. From slavery through Reconstruction, to the advent of Jim and Jane Crow, Black people have always had to be the architects of our own freedom and liberation.

It is no surprise that Kendi has emerged as one of the most important scholars of his generation, accurately interpreting the civil rights gains and losses across the many years. But Kendi doesn't simply engage in the "paralysis of analysis," as Martin Luther King Jr. once observed. He provides concrete and actionable steps and recommendations that we can all take to wipe out the vestiges of racism and bigotry and strive to be—to use the term Kendi popularized in 2019—antiracist.

Sharpton is founder and president of National Action Network, host of PoliticsNation *on MSNBC and author of* Rise Up: Confronting a Country at the Crossroads

PHOTOGRAPH BY PHILIP KEITH FOR TIME

REMEMBRANCE

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

The high court's counterweight

BY ANTONIN SCALIA

Ruth Bader Ginsburg has had two distinguished legal careers, either one of which would alone entitle her to be one of TIME's 100. When she was a law professor at Rutgers and later Columbia, she became the leading (and very successful) litigator on behalf of women's rights—the Thurgood Marshall of that cause, so to speak. President Carter appointed her to a seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in 1980, and President Clinton to a seat on the Supreme Court in 1993.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg appeared on the cover of the 2015 TIME 100. The accompanying tribute was written by her longtime friend and colleague on the Supreme Court, Antonin Scalia, who died in February 2016

Having had the good fortune to serve beside her on both courts, I can attest that her opinions are always thoroughly considered, always carefully crafted and almost always correct (which is to say we sometimes disagree). That much is apparent for all to see.

What only her colleagues know is that her suggestions improve the opinions the rest of us write, and that she is a source of collegiality and good judgment in all our work.

CHEMISTRY THAT MATTERS™

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sabic

COLLABORATION. THE WORLD'S HUNGRY FOR IT.

As the world adapts to a new normal, we need to work together to overcome world hunger.

That's why SABIC is working with farmers to increase food yields while arable land is diminishing.

To help feed a predicted global population of 9 billion people by 2050, our specialty nutrients can address some of the demands of different crops for different regions of the world. Set to help increase global harvests as much as 30% by 2025, it's Chemistry that Matters™, and it's never mattered more.

Meet one of the world's leading chemical companies at SABIC.com

According to Gen Z Snapchatters, **“be yourself”** is the slogan that best defines them.

Meet the **Snapchat Generation.**

Learn more at **snapchat.com/generation**

2019 JWT Intelligence study in partnership with Snap Inc.